

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 21, 2013

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Bangla back

Restaurant in business again after major blaze

See Page 3



Tiger drops in

Zoo's new arrival settles in ready to meet mate

See Page 13



X appeal

Stars are out for dazzling celebration at Merry Hill

See Page 20



Cat crisis as charity pleads for more help

A CHARITY has been 'inundated' with cats and kittens sparking an urgent appeal for animal lovers to offer them a new home.

Halesowen and District branch of Cats Protection said dozens of cats and kittens had been brought to them recently.

The situation is now so serious emergency carers are now being used to look after the animals.

The branch is now having to turn away animals but is holding a rehoming day on Saturday to highlight the problem. Residents who would like to give a loving home to a cat are being urged to get in touch.

Housing officer for the branch Sue Widdows said: "I know it is the same for all of our branches in the area. There has been a rise in the number of cats we are being asked to take in. We have six people who foster for us and three emergency carers.

"Our members look after the cats and kittens at their homes and all have now taken in animals.

"Me and my husband, the charity's welfare officer, have also taken in some of the animals to help out."

Mrs Widdows said the present economic situation was believed to be the cause of so many animals needing homes. Mrs Widdows can be contacted on 0121 550 6743.

Tickets due for concert

TICKETS are now on sale for Sandwell's annual Civic Carol Concert, which will be hosted by the borough's Mayor Councillor Mrs Linda Horton and her husband Councillor Roger Horton.

The event it taking place at West Bromwich Town Hall on December 7.

The festive programme will include performances by Langley Brass Band and also by Britain's Got Talent organist Jean Martyn, from Bromwood.

Tickets cost £5 each and can be obtained by phoning Lorna Johnson on 0121 569 8276, or via email lorna.johnson@sandwell.gov.uk

MP BACKING BID TO SAVE CENTRE

Report by Alex Ross

A COST-CUTTING proposal to close seven children's centres across Dudley borough has been criticised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Conservative MP Mr James Morris joined up with about 20 families at a protest against a plan by Dudley Council to shut seven of its centres in a bid to save £2.3 million. He claims the move would impact the most vulnerable in society.

Many of the families at Monday's protest, which was at the Hope Centre in Andrew Road in Halesowen, were users of Tenterfields Children's Centre in the town.

As well as waving placards and chanting slogans, they also signed a petition started by Mr Morris which called on the council to keep open Tenterfields. It now has more than 70 signatures.

The centres provide children's activities, support, including access to childminding and nursery services, ante-natal services and links with Jobcentre Plus to give careers advice to parents.

Mistake

Mr Morris said: "I am supporting local residents against the possible closure of Tenterfields Children's Centre.

"I think the council is making a big mistake in threatening to close it. This is a service that looks after some of the most vulnerable people in the community and the closure would have a huge impact."

He added: "The council gets money from the Government and it is up to the council to prioritise its funding.

"Of course budgets are tight for councils, like they are for Government and for most families, but the council needs to prioritise their spending.

"I think most people would agree that the children's centre is exactly the kind of thing that the council should be prioritising instead of planning to close it."

Amanda Taylor, 22, has three children aged five and under and is a regular user of the centre. She said: "I use the centre for everything. If you need someone to talk to or take the kids out - they are always there. If they closed this one, the next nearest is Lye but I don't drive and the bus fare would be costly. I really hope they keep this centre open."

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres, based in clusters in five areas around the borough including Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen. In total, 285 people work at the centres.

■ Facing closure - see page 2



James Morris MP

Call for an 'education revolution'

GOVERNMENT should fund places for children to go to independent schools bringing on an 'education revolution', says Dudley North MP Ian Austin

Mr Austin is backing proposals that would provide places in leading private schools to pupils from low or average-income families. The Labour MP said the UK was falling behind international competitors with the Black Country struggling even more than other areas of the country.

Standards

He called for an 'education revolution' in the UK to boost school standards and urged the Government to introduce tough new targets to boost standards in state schools.

The MP said that every school should have at least 70 per cent of children getting five GCSEs at grade C or above, including both English and maths. He also wants to see a University Technical College in every town to promote technical skills.

Under proposals set out by Peter Lampl, of educational charity the Sutton Trust, places at independent schools would be available to pupils in state schools.

Mr Austin said: "Standards and results in too many schools are just not good enough. England is falling behind in world rankings and just two out of seven schools in Dudley meet the national average."

■ MP backs head on slang - see page 5

Winter wonderland dream



Melodie Williams wants to create a winter wonderland for her seriously ill son Mason

MELODIE Williams has one wish this Christmas - that her seriously-ill son has a very special festive season.

She does not know what the future holds for her son Mason but she is determined to make the most of all of the time she has with him and has launched a fundraising bid to transform the garden of her Rowley Regis home into a winter wonderland.

She said: "We don't know what the future is for him. I wanted to do it because he loves lights and if I didn't do it now, and something happened to him, I would regret it."

Mason, aged three, the youngest of Mrs Williams' five children, was born with a condition commonly known as having 'half a heart' - Hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

He also has a rare condition called micro-deletion, which means he is missing 53 genes and also has development delay.

Transplant

The care he has been given to date is palliative and if his condition does not improve as he grows, he will not be put on the list for a heart and lung transplant.

Mrs Williams, of Mountford Close, said she had the idea of a winter wonderland so he could have happy memories of this Christmas. To donate items for her winter wonderland project, email melodie_williams@hotmail.co.uk

Pensioner transport subsidies facing axe

FREE train and tram travel for Black Country pensioners is facing the axe while children's bus fares could soar, under the latest transport spending cut proposals.

West Midlands transport authority Centro said it must slash £14 million from its £146m annual budget.

The move follows cash-strapped councils who fund them being forced to make cuts of their own.

Centro is now launching a consultation on the proposals, which also include cutting the budget of the door-to-door Ring and Ride service used by pensioners and disabled people.

Charge

Options being looked at include children paying two thirds of the adult fare on buses instead of half; removing free local rail and tram travel for eligible people or introducing an annual charge of around £30; reducing the grant to Ring and Ride; reducing the number of taxpayer-funded buses.

The move would not affect free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled between 9.30am and 11pm, which Centro is obliged to fund by the Government.

However, it has previously found the funding to extend this service in the West Midlands to trains and Midland Metro trams.

Patrols in town centre

POLICE patrols are being stepped up in Blackheath town centre in a bid to tackle incidents such as shop thefts and anti-social behaviour.

Neighbourhood officers will be making regular rounds of the town centre to reassure businesses, staff and shoppers.

Blackheath Business and Community Association chairman Mary Docker said: "We have the Tradernet Radio Link which provides essential security for traders and shoppers in the town."

"It works well in Blackheath - incidents are minimal compared to how they were years ago."

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Many children's centres face closure due to cuts

Report by Andrew Turton

SAVAGE cuts are striking a 'devastating' blow to residents in Dudley, opposition councillors warned as the council announced plans to axe seven children's centres in a bid to balance the books.

Dudley Council has revealed proposals to shut seven children's centres serving thousands of families. This would reduce the number in the borough from 20 to 13.

They claim the move would help them save £2.3 million from overall children's services budgets, which are facing tough pressures.

Children's centres across Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen are under threat.

Hob Green children's centre in Pedmore and Netherton Park centre are among those which could be hit.

Reeling

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres, based in clusters in five areas around the borough including Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

They provide children's activities, support, including access to childminding and nursery services, ante-natal services and links with Jobcentre Plus to give careers advice to parents.

In total, 285 people work at the centres. Residents have been left reeling by news Dudley Council is struggling under the weight of worse than expected forecasts on how much is need to be saved in the next three years.

The authority needs to make extra cuts on top of an initially-predicted £26 million amount set earlier this year following a huge drop in Government funding.

The council had already planned for up to 334 job losses by 2017, as well as major cuts to its children's services, museums and high-ways expenditure.

But now the cash-strapped council is forced to make £32 million of cuts over the same period with proposals on where these extra savings yet to be revealed.

Councillors last week revealed the latest axe to fall will be on the children's centres and launched consultation with the public.

Families have already started a campaign against the closure plans and dozens of parents turned out today to protest at one of the centres.

The council has been stung by a £3m overspend on budgets for looking after children in care this year.

Opposition Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, called the move to axe children's centre a 'betrayal' of promises by the Labour leadership at the authority.

"I don't believe these cuts are being managed well and the council must be more radical and develop services better making use of the private sector," he said.

He added: "It is a betrayal of all the community who have pulled together to make these centres and the staff that have helped make them a success."

"The children's services budget is spiralling out of control after they announced they would need another £3m this year and



Angry - front, from left, Heather Cheslin, Councillor Richard Body and Tracey Hipkiss with parents and children campaigning against proposals to close the Hob Green Children's Centre, Pedmore



Netherton Park Children's Centre at Netherton Park, Dudley, is also under threat as part of drastic cuts

sadly it is schools and children's centres that are suffering because of this.

"Unless they address the problems of the budget for looked after children they will continue to suffer."

Children's services chief Councillor Tim Crumpton blamed Government cuts in council funding for forcing them to table the proposal.

Councillor Crumpton said the proposal was not 'set in stone', adding: "We are launching a consultation process that I want to emphasise is open and honest."

"We face unprecedented cuts in funding across all of our public services and it is with a great deal of sadness that we are putting forward proposals to reduce the number of children's centres and the service that we provide. I will be meeting staff and users at every one of the 20 centres and will be inviting all local councillors to join me at the centres that serve their wards."

"I want to emphasise that the proposals put forward are just that, proposals, and all of the views expressed will be considered before any final decisions are made."

"This is as an opportunity for our statutory partners to consider what they may be able to bring to the table that may offset some of the funding difficulties."

"I also see it as an area where the voluntary sector may be able to help."

"We are open to all views and hope that those who use and those who value this service take the opportunity to tell us what they think."

Predicted

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I don't envy the councillors in Dudley. They have to make very difficult decisions because the Government has cut the funding available for local services but I am worried about the plan to close Gornal's children's centre and I'll be talking to parents who use it and local councillors to discuss the impact it would have."

Government funding comes to the council in the form of a Revenue Support Grant. The council's predicted grant income was calculated in September and the budgets amended to show a £32m shortfall after

three years. As part of the £26m of cuts, budgets for street and parks maintenance and cleaning will be slashed and up to three youth centres may be forced to close saving £380,000.

Further squeezes in arts funding are predicted including changes to the way Dudley Performing Arts is run.

The centres under threat also include Brierley Hill, in Parkes Street; Bromley Pennsett, in Bromley; Kingswinford and Wall Heath, in Mimosa Walk; Wordsley, in Lawnswood Road; Kates Hill and Sledmere, Selborne Road; Netherton Park; Priory, in Limes Road; Quarry Bank, in High Street, and Woodside, in Highgate Road.

Other centres at risk are Wrens Nest, in Marigold Crescent; Coseley, in Bayer Street; Gornal, in Roberts Street; Queen Victoria, in School Street; Little Hand, in Beeches View Avenue; Cradley, in Olive Hill, in Springfield Road; Tenterfields, in Tenterfields, Halesowen; Butterfly, in Lye bypass; Peters Hill, in Peters Hill Road, and Amblecote and Stourbridge, in Forge Road.



Radical - Patrick Harley



Sadness - Tim Crumpton



Worried - MP Ian Austin

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Overseas orders are boost at company

BUSY engineering firm Thompson has refurbished its assembly hall as part of substantial investment programme during its 50th anniversary year.

The friction welding machine manufacturer has updated the 7,000 sq ft premises in response to strong demand for its equipment from overseas component makers.

Thompson's engineering team is currently building a number of machines at the Halesowen facility for customers in China and the USA.

The firm has also produced what Thompson believes is the world's largest direct drive friction welding machine.

Caterpillar
The 400 ton model - 100 tonnes more powerful than its previous biggest model - has been installed at Caterpillar's US plant in South Carolina.

Thompson has added to its range of machines for welding components including drill pipes, piston rods and truck axles.

It recently saw one of its machines installed at a French factory by hydraulic cylinder manufacturer Sahgev.

Thompson, which employs around 90 people at its base in Hereford Rise, can trace its roots back to the historic John Thompson boiler making business, established in Highfields, Bilston, in the 1830s.

The company will be bidding for more new business when it exhibits at North America's largest metal forming and welding show, Fabtech, this week.

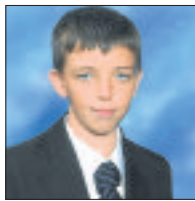
Accountancy merger deal

HALESOWEN-BASED chartered accountancy Nicklin has acquired a firm in Blackheath after its partners decided to retire.

All the staff at Woodall Davis & Bache have moved into Nicklin's offices in Church Court, Stourbridge Road, while partner Keith Davies stays on as a consultant.

Nicklin managing partner Harvey Owen said the merger came about after Woodall Davis & Bache's partners were looking to retire but wanted to safeguard the future of their team.

Tribute to Tom, 13, after cancer battle



Schoolboy Tom Blakemore

IT WAS a long-fought battle that he faced with courage. Tom Blakemore's devastated family has paid tribute to the teenager after he lost his struggle with cancer and is now free of suffering.

The 13-year-old was given the all-clear from the rare form of cancer behind his face after receiving pioneering cancer treatment in America three years ago and was determined to get back into school life in Cradley.

The youngster was then faced with the devastating news that the cancer had returned. And, after a gruelling course of chemotherapy, he died at Acorns Children's Hospice on November 10.

His mother Jayne, 41, said: "The only thing we

live on is that we know he is now free of the pain he suffered so much up to his death."

Tom received proton therapy in America in 2010 - a year after his first diagnosis with the rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma.

Inoperable

It was inoperable because of its position between his skull and spine. But he was given the all-clear after the treatment in the US.

Doctors then broke the devastating news in November last year that a scan had revealed the cancer had reappeared in exactly the same place.

Mrs Blakemore said: "After the scan found the

tumour again, we tried to keep Tom at school as long as we could. He remained there until Christmas before going for treatment. You can only receive radiation treatment once, as he had received it before, he was left with chemotherapy."

Tom leaves his father Simon, 42, and three brothers Callum, 18, Jack, 16, and Kai, nine.

Tom's funeral is at Holy Trinity Church in Old Hill on Monday, November 25, at 11.30am. The cortege will pass his former schools, Windsor High School and Colley Lane Primary School.

The family have asked for donations to go to Acorns Children's Hospice and Timmy's Trust, a charity helping children with cancer.

Dog owner now has two months to save his pet

Restaurant back from the ashes



Bangla Lounge owner Abdul Bari is toasting a fresh start after the fire which nearly wrecked his Halesowen business

AN INDIAN restaurant devastated in a blaze has re-opened its doors to diners, almost seven months after the fire that bosses said had cost more than £80,000 in lost business.

Bangla Lounge in Halesowen welcomed back customers again this week following a £210,000 refit at the High Street premises.

The building was gutted when fire ripped through the restaurant, up the first floor and into the roof.

Electrical

Around 25 firefighters were called to tackle the blaze on April 18, which was caused by an electrical fault.

Owner Abdul Bari has spoken of his delight at the restaurant re-opening and thanked the community for their support in getting the business back off the ground.

After the fire, the 30-year-old received more than 200 letters of sympathy.

He said: "I want to thank the emergency services for their work and the public who have shown their support to me."

The restaurant caters for up to 120 people and now features private function rooms for up to 40 people on the first floor. The first level had been previously used for storage.

Last week Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade, Steve Fitzpatrick, officially re-opened the restaurant. About 160 people attended a special event to mark the restaurant's return.

No-one was at the restaurant at the time of the fire. Mr Bari was alerted to it by a shopkeeper nearby.

The restaurant, which now has 14 staff, was opened 11 years ago. Mr Bari took over the business eight years ago.

A DOG owner faces a race against time to save the life of his pet.

Peter Walker got into trouble while taking two-year-old Alfie for a walk. They were spotted in Two Gates, Cradley on September 13 by a police dog team which happened to be in the area.

They were stopped because a member of the squad feared the animal was a Pit Bull Terrier - one of four breeds listed under the dangerous dog act.

Alfie was seized and taken to kennels approved by the police until checks could be carried out to establish the animal's breed.

Expert

Sergeant Pete Cossar - the expert from West Midlands Police dog unit who spotted Alfie in the street - was able to confirm that the animal had a sufficient number of the characteristics needed to be described as a Pit Bull Terrier.

Written details of his findings were given to District Judge Michael Wheeler who granted a contingent destruction order in a civil action brought by police during a hearing at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

by John Scott

Mr Walker, who lives in Chaucer House, Cradley, did not oppose the application and now has two months to comply with the legislation - or else Alfie could be destroyed.

He will have to pay to have the dog neutered, microchipped, put on the dangerous dog index and have the animal's unique reference number tattooed on its inner thigh.

Sgt Cossar said: "As long as the requirements are complied with within two months of the order being made, West Midlands Police are happy for Alfie to be returned to him."

"I am confident he is a responsible owner. The dog has a lovely temperament."

The dog would have to be muzzled and be on a lead when out in public in future.

Memorial to schoolgirl

A MEMORIAL stone has been unveiled as a lasting tribute to 16-year-old Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was stabbed to death on a bus in Birmingham.

Family and friends were joined by well-wishers at the ceremony which took place on Saturday. The stone has been placed near where the Leasowes High School pupil was killed on Hagley Road in Birmingham on March 7.

It is a circular stone with a picture of Christina and a dedication which reads: 'This memorial stone is dedicated to the memory of Christina Joan Edkins, a beautiful princess forever in our hearts.' Roses were laid during the unveiling ceremony and balloons released by her family.

Friends from Leasowes High School attended the event and headteacher Neil Shaw was asked to cut the ribbon.

Mr Shaw said the memorial had been organised by firms at the 54 Hagley Road office complex.

NEWS

in brief

Public can have say on town plan

PEOPLE can have a say on plans to reduce traffic congestion and improve buses in Blackheath.

Sandwell Council and Centru are working together on proposals that would help them bid for Government money. Under the proposals, road layouts and bus stop locations would be changed.

Exhibitions are due to be held over coming weeks, at Blackheath town centre at the Christmas lights switch-on event on Saturday from 3pm to 7pm, Blackheath Market in Long Lane on November 29 from 9am to 4pm, and at Sainsbury's, in Halesowen Street, Blackheath on November 30 from 10am to 2pm.

Steampunk fans can meet authors

THE science fiction genre steampunk, which is fantasy set in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, will be celebrated at Dudley Library in St James's Road tonight (Thursday).

Published steampunk authors Meg Kingston and LM Cooke will be meeting fans of the genre. Their latest books Meg Kingston's Crystal Heart and LM Cooke's The Front Line: Volume 2 of The Automata Wars will be available to buy.

Tickets cost £3 and are available from Dudley Library. Reserve a place by calling 01384 815560 - steampunk attire is optional.

Tudor wills topic at last history talk

HISTORIAN Margaret Bradley will be giving the last in her series of talks on the History of Cradley on Thursday, November 28, at 7.30 pm.

It's entitled 'Cradley wills at the time of the Reformation'. She said: "This month we will be looking at eight wills and inventories made by ordinary people who lived in Cradley before the time of William Shakespeare."

The free talk is at Overend Methodist Mission in Banners Lane.

Recycle poppies at supermarkets

SUPERMARKET customers can recycle their Remembrance Day poppies at Sainsbury's stores in Merry Hill and Ambleside stores for the first time. The recycling service supports the Royal British Legion and is available up to Sunday, November 24.

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NEWS

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I WROTE recently about Arthur Wynne who invented the crossword puzzle 100 years ago. My thanks to all of you who have written to let me know his plot in the cemetery is 4 across and 6 down.

□□□□□□□□

IF A Conservative MP had dared utter the remarks made by David Blunkett about Roma gypsies, he would have vanished under howls of disapproval and dark mutterings about Enoch Powell and "Rivers of Blood." But Blunkett is, as they say, sound. Blind from birth, he's an Old Labour son of toil, popular on both sides of the House. Blunkett warns that cultural tensions between Roma and local people could "implode" into a re-run of the 2001 race riots in northern towns. The former home secretary may be right. Britain has a brilliant record of assimilating different cultures but it's a process that works best when people arrive gradually. In 2011 the Government announced there were "relatively few" Roma citizens in the UK. Two weeks ago it was revealed that 200,000 have settled. How the hell did that happen?

□□□□□□□□

NEITHER the Royal Commission nor the Press's own regulator will do anything about one of the most offensive forms of journalism. You know the sort of thing. The Duchess of Cambridge appears in public with a hair or two out of place. The poison-penned bitches of Fleet Street pile in like vultures on a cadaver, sneering at "frayed at the edges" Kate. The great unfairness is that Kate, and celebrities like her, are snapped a thousand times a day and are expected to look perfect in every shot. Female columnists, on the other hand, hide behind a single byline photograph, usually taken with a soft-focus lens some years ago under studio conditions after a full facial and hairdo. I recall meeting one of Fleet Street's sharper-penned ladies, face to face. I have seen better-preserved objects dragged out of pyramids. Don't let them get you down, Kate.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hamiltons back on the campaign trail for UKIP

"I WANT you to get out on the knocker and the doorsteps and campaign," Neil Hamilton booms to an attentive small group of UKIP party members.

"I'm sure you can't say knocker," immediately shouts out his wife Christine, who is close by.

"It is knocker single, not knockers plural," Neil instantly replies, apparent innocence ringing in his voice as he proudly wears a bright hand-painted Union Jack silk bow tie.

Laughter echoed around the small back room at the Britannia Inn Sports Bar in Wollaston, where an audience of around 50 mostly middle-aged men smiled at the couple.

The high-profile pair were on invitation from the Stourbridge branch of UKIP ahead of the campaign for next year's crucial European elections.

The 64-year-old former Conservative MP ordered a pint of bitter along with fish and chips on arrival and he was dressed in a black suit with the striking bow tie which has the word 'referendum' on either side.

Ambition

He and Mrs Hamilton were late because of traffic but they were in time to converse with the audience ahead of Mr Hamilton's talk on his career and ambition now he had been appointed campaign director for the upcoming elections - 'only 200 days away', he reminds everyone.

Mrs Hamilton took advantage of her time in the spotlight to take the subject away from politics very briefly.

She told of her time in the jungle on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, and then announces her disquiet at the £142,000 last

year's contest MP Nadine Dorries has reportedly received.

"I have been completely, extraordinarily, horrified by learning today the amount of money Nadine Dorries got paid to go into the jungle," she said.

"May I just make it abundantly clear I went in the very first programme and got absolutely nothing."

She told the audience how she first turned down the invite for the programme because of the 'tricky time' in her life when Mr Hamilton had been declared bankrupt - but then accepted the invitation a month before the show in August 2002.

"They rang me and said 'Christine will you please change your mind', so I said 'alright'. We did get the fee up a little bit, but I mean honestly, I'm not going to sleep tonight, talk about how to sell yourself."

Mrs Hamilton, despite saying she was in talks to do two more television programmes, is now supporting her husband's work-load following his step up through the ranks at the UKIP party to campaign director.

She added: "I have this reputation as a battle axe which is completely, utterly untrue, I am a pussycat."

Mr Hamilton, meanwhile, kept matters more serious. Speaking about next June's European elections, he declared his party was the front-runner and issued a rallying cry to party members. "We are going to win aren't we," he shouted, "we are going to win big aren't we - and we are going to win three or four seats in West Midlands."

He also bemoaned the country's loss of power to 'international bureaucrats' in Brussels, 'enormous damage' caused by immigration and the lack of choice for voters between Labour, Lib Dems and Conservatives.

He called on people to join UKIP's 'great crusade' in taking back the country.



Pulling pints but UKIP hope to pull in voters at the European elections - Christine and Neil Hamilton with, centre, with Britanna Inn landlord Wayne Etheridge

Speaking to him following the talk, he said: "If you go and speak to someone random in a bus queue, regardless of the way they have voted in the past, their view of all the big issues of the day will be much the same," he said.

"The Westminster parties are completely out of touch with their feelings. UKIP is a grassroots movement, it didn't exist 20 years ago, it's a spontaneous uprising of the people."

When asked about the recent controversy

sies at the party, including the standing down of Stourport councillor Eric Kitson after he published racist comments online, Mr Hamilton said: "Because you have one bad apple in a barrel, it doesn't mean that all the others are not perfectly sound - giving disproportionate importance to a single individual is clearly absurd. He is no longer a UKIP member."

Will he consider standing for election again? "Over my dead body", laughed Mrs Hamilton. "Not at my age."



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School defends classroom move to ban Black Country phrases

A SCHOOL has defended a policy banning pupils from using Black Country slang words in class – but fans of the region's dialect insist: "Dow get rid of it. It's bostin'."

Colley Lane Primary School in Halesowen has issued the ban on slang in the classroom in a bid to improve standards of English and has sent out a letter to parents setting out what can and cannot be said by their children in lessons.

It describes the approach as 'zero tolerance', but today headteacher John White said that had been 'tongue and cheek' and that children would be corrected, not punished, for using slang in class.

Standards

He said the policy was in response to a drop in levels of English for new pupils.

He said: "I think we are seeing a decline in standards of English when children come into school."

"We are seeing that some children coming in are not able to speak very much at all to be honest."

"I think some of the changes in society – the amount of time people sit around and talk together and the amount of screen time – seem to be having an effect on how confidently children speak when starting school."

"We want to pick them up on that and improve their standards in English. It is important because it is the foundation of everything. If they can't say it, it is likely they can't read it, and even less likely they can write it."

Mr White said the new rules were only in the classroom, and children were not to be discouraged from using their local dialect slang in the playground.

He said he recognised the importance of maintaining the area's culture.

He said: "We value the dialect but we want



Colley Lane School in Halesowen has defended its policy of banning Black Country slang

to encourage children to learn when to use and when not, like for a job interview. It is, of course, fine to use in other situations and we would celebrate that."

He added: "We know it is a topic lots of people will be interested in, but I'm positive about it."

"If it starts to get people talking about the issue, that can only be a good thing."

The new school policy has already attracted some criticism.

Steve Pitts, who owns Teet T-Shirts in Cradley Heath – which makes shirts with Black Country phrases and recorded a Black Country Alphabet clip – said: "You cor rid of the culture, it's bostin'."

He added: "I understand you have to be

able to communicate with people on your travels, but this smacks against part of the curriculum which teaches children about their culture and history."

Heritage

"The people doing this will be the same people down the line who complain we have lost our heritage."

Parent Zheyuan Kareem, who has a seven-year-old boy at the school and moved to the UK eight years ago, said she thought it was a good move. The 31-year-old said: "English is my second language so for me, as a parent, it is good if my child speaks English in the house and not slang picked up at school. I believe it is good for their education."

OFFENDING TERMS THAT HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED

These are among the slang words and phrases that have been barred from the classroom:

'they was' instead of 'they were'
'I cor do that' instead of 'I can't do that'
'Ya' instead of 'you'
'gonna' instead of 'going to'
'woz' instead of 'was'
'I day' instead of 'I didn't'
'I ain't' instead of 'I haven't'
'somefink' instead of 'something'
'it wor me' instead of 'it wasn't me'
'ay?' instead of 'pardon'

MP backing headmaster over slang

A SCHOOL'S controversial new policy on banning Black Country slang words from the classroom has been backed by an MP.

Colley Lane Primary School in Halesowen has sparked debate because of the ban, which has been introduced in a bid to raise standards of English.

Headteacher John White said he hoped the move would help children in their studies and future careers.

Pupils are now banned from using phrases such as 'gonna', 'woz' or 'it wor me'.

The policy has been backed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. He said: "I am from the Black Country and am very proud of the place I am from and my accent."

"But in the modern world when the job most youngsters get depends on their education, learning to present yourself properly is just as important as learning maths and English."

Banned

But he insisted that he loves the regional accent, adding: "I have never changed my accent, I went to Russells Hall Primary and then, what is now Castle High School."

It comes as more than 1,000 readers of The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star took part in the debate by voting in an online poll.

A total of 65 per cent said the dialect shouldn't be banned in the classroom, while 35 per cent said it should.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for education at Dudley Council, said: "I have no problem with teaching the children standard English in class, what I don't want is someone looking down their noses at our dialect – but, from what I can see, the school is trying to make sure the children understand good English."

At the school gate, the initiative has received a mixed response. Ann Mills, aged 62, of Station Road in Old Hill, has two grandchildren at the school – a nine-year-old girl and seven-year-old boy.

She said: "I think in one way for the school it is a good idea, but at the same time it is about where these children live."

"I think we should be accepted for who we are. I'm proud of the way we speak."

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

SO, according to a new study, the best place in Britain to live is in the West Midlands.

Solihull came top in this year's UsSwitch Quality of Life Survey. The energy comparison service came to the conclusion after studying 138 different areas for 24 different factors including disposable income, life expectancy, and the speed of the local broadband service.

Come again? Now, I'm probably a little biased, particularly given that I don't own a computer. But it seems very hard to believe that the broadband speed is particularly crucial to the well-being of the human condition. Still, there we have it. Solihull, the best part of the UK in which to live. Particularly if you're an online gaming fan.

□□□□□□ MAYBE as a pretty dyed-in-the-wool Black Country 'mon' I should be more incensed, but I really can't get too excited about the ban on local dialect in the classroom at Colley Lane Primary School in Cradley.

One incensed parent said: "Some of my friends have gone on to be doctors and lawyers and I'm an engineer – the accent doesn't affect you as a person."

And of course she's right. Despite what the metropolitan trendies will tell you, there's no such thing as a 'neutral accent'. So-called 'received pronunciation' is nothing more than an effort to enforce southern accents on rest of the country. After all, the whole world revolves around the London commuter belt, doesn't it?

But still, there is a world of difference between speaking with a Black Country accent and using incorrect grammar and syntax. Use phrases like 'Yo ay gonna do that, am yo?' in a job interview and you might as well turn up with a pumpkin on your head.

Yes, children should be taught about their history and culture. But they should also be taught that, unless they want a career making nails in a sweatshop and being paid in beer tokens only redeemable at the gangmaster's pub, such phraseology should be viewed as a quaint antiquity.

And that there are times when you can spake proper and, times when you can't.

□□□□□□ THAT said, the school shot itself in the foot with the letter it sent out to parents. Aside from the pompous tone – 'zero tolerance' and the sort of silly logo you might have expected from the old East German government – there was an apostrophe missing from 'I can't'.

It also referred to 'Formal English' with an incorrect capital 'F' (formal is an adjective, not a proper noun). And there was a needless hyphen following a full stop. If you are going to launch a campaign against poor grammar, would it not have been a good idea to have arranged for an English teacher to read the letter first?



Dave and Carol Matthews with their daughters Alison, left, and Clare, right, when he was presented with a 50 year long service award



Dave Matthews, who was kitman at West Bromwich Albion for 51 years, with the club's manager Roy Hodgson before he became England boss



Albion players and mascots join supporters in a minute's applause before a match earlier this year to honour the memory of Dave Matthews

Cup final date led to a perfect match

Albion kitman Dave Matthews' dream has been fulfilled, thanks to his wife and family. STEVE MADELEY reports

DAVE and Carol Matthews always remembered their first date.

But then the 1968 FA Cup Final was a difficult day to forget.

The couple were later married for almost 42 years before the much-loved West Bromwich Albion kitman's death in April left his family, friends and an entire club in shock.

And it all began with a day out at Wembley 45 years ago when the then Carol Ewen was persuaded to accompany her future husband to one of the Baggies' most famous games.

"I used to work at a chemist called Bannister and Thatcher, over the road from the old Express & Star office in West Bromwich," recalled Carol, who last week took delivery of Dave's autobiography, *Mr Albion* – completed by his family in his honour.

"The club used to use our chemist for a lot of bandages, antibiotics and other things that players might need.

Dedicated

"That's how we met but our first date was the FA Cup Final in 1968.

"We went down on the official train and we were supposed to be staying at one of the lads' aunts, but she wanted us in by 10pm and, after just winning the Cup, we didn't want that. So after having a drink and a meal in London, we slept in St James's Park for the night and came back the next day!"

Three years later the couple were married and they stayed together until this year, when Dave's shock death at home in Halesowen left family and friends distraught and the future of his long-mooted autobiography in doubt.

The 67-year-old had committed three quarters of his life to print alongside freelance journalist and ghost writer David Instone when a rare heart condition claimed his life. It left Carol and daughters Alison and Clare to decide whether they should complete his work.



Carol Matthews with a copy of her late husband autobiography *Mr Albion*

Eventually, they used diaries, tapes and family memories to fill in the blanks and finish the story of a life dedicated to the Baggies from the age of 16, when he applied for a job as a groundsman and instead wound up in the kit room.

Carol believes there was never a serious doubt that the book, which is now in shops, would be published in honour of the man dubbed 'Mr Albion' by Baggies legend Cyril Regis. "We thought it would be a lasting tribute to him if we could finish it," she said.

"I spoke to the girls and they decided they would like to go on and finish it, and we never really said 'no, that's it' or 'I thought we didn't want to go on. I knew it was Dave's dream to have his book published."

"There probably were stories that Dave would have known and hadn't written down that could have gone in the book, but they were lost when he died. "David came over and talked to us and we tried to fill in as best we could. "For about 12 years the book was in

Dave's mind and he used to make notes in diaries and on tapes. Dave had passed on all of the diaries and tapes to David, and a lot of people were very good.

"They went over to Ron Atkinson's house, and when Tony Mowbray was down here with Middlesbrough to play one of the local teams, they met up with him.

"It all came together in the end. The ex-players have been extremely kind and Ally Robertson did the foreword."

The loyalty that enabled the Matthews family to complete Dave's book was the same loyalty that prompted one of the greatest ever turnouts for a Hawthorns dinner when he celebrated 50 years at the club in 2011.

A who's who of Albion players and managers from five decades converged on The Hawthorns to celebrate a barely believable half-a-century of service.

Tragically, less than two years later, the cast would assemble again to pay their respects at his funeral.

Enjoyed

Yet Carol believes the memories of his special night two years ago stuck with Dave, first through his successful fight with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and into his all-too-brief retirement.

"I think he was overwhelmed," said Carol, aged 69. "He couldn't believe that so many managers and players had given their time and made the effort to go along."

"He always got on well with people. I've never heard anybody say a bad word about him. And we saw it at his funeral as well, with all the players that turned out for him."

"It was the only job he ever had. He got a bit disillusioned with a couple of the managers and considered leaving but he always thought better of it."

"I think he would have enjoyed the finished book because there is humour in there. There is no 'kiss and tell' to it but there is a lot of gentle humour. I think he would have liked it."

● *Mr Albion* (Thomas Publications) is available, priced £14.99, from Albion club shops, selected book shops and online at www.thomaspublications.co.uk

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A SHOPPER wandering around a market got a fright when a skydiver landed on top of him. Vin Roden was visiting the Saturday market at Halfpenny Green airfield, at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, when 18-year-old Russell Monkman was forced to deploy his emergency parachute. Mr Roden, aged 30, was taken to Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge with a minor neck injury.

HOME Secretary Leon Brittan gave the go-ahead for the biggest prison-building programme of the century. It included the construction of a second jail, at a cost of £12m at Featherstone.

DAD'S Army star John Le Mesurier died at the age of 71. The actor played the debonair Sgt Arthur Wilson in the hit comedy.

1993...

RED-faced police officers and firemen carried out a fire exit inspection while male strippers Rebel Red and Steve Perry strutted their stuff in front of hundreds of screaming women. More policemen, with dogs, were summoned to Samson's Place nightclub in Oldbury, as more than 1,200 hysterical women tried to get into the 500-capacity venue.

GRAHAM Taylor's tenure as England manager was hanging by a thread after the national side failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, despite beating San Marino 7-1. To add to the humiliation, England went behind to the minnows after just eight seconds. The former Aston Villa boss said he would continue until told otherwise.

2003...

THE British Red Cross sparked controversy after telling volunteers not to create Nativity scenes in its shops for fears of offending non-Christians. The charity came under fire for 'stripping the Christianity out of Christmas', and Rev Colin Gibson of St Matthew's Church in Walsall said it was very sad that the faith was being suppressed. The Red Cross said it was to preserve the organisation's impartiality.

A BUS station was to get its own police station to protect passengers from thieves and drug dealers. Supt Gareth Cann said he hoped Wolverhampton bus station would get its own police base within four weeks after it was reported that many people avoided it at night.

AROUND 1,200 pupils were evacuated as a fire ripped through Dartmouth High School in Great Barr.

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Adding in £50 of costs due so far, I calculated without too much effort that the coming 12 months was going to cost me £1,089 – that is about £90 per month.

The first of the nine pages informed me grandly that my monthly direct debit was to be increased to £120!

I nearly contributed £360 to that £2 billion.

Even the customer services operative who rectified the direct debit couldn't work out how the figure of £120 a month had been arrived at.

M CALLADINE
Courtland Road
Kingswinford

Warning of thieves targeting shoppers

READERS beware – pick-pockets are out and about in Merry Hill. I had my purse stolen, taken from my handbag on a Saturday afternoon in Poundland.

Apart from the obvious loss of cash, it is also the inconvenience of having to cancel all my debit/cash/credit cards, for which I won't receive a replacement for at least ten days.

It also included my driving licence and bus pass.

Yes I'm a pensioner, easy target for mindless thugs and caring for my 93-year-old mother.

To the person who stole it – enjoy spending the money on early Christmas presents. However, just stop and think how you would feel if this had happened to your mother or nan!

J GREENHALL
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

HS2 will benefit the rich but at a high cost for the nation

WE are told that slashing the HS2 through the English countryside will bring great economic benefits. But what are they? There could be some benefit if the rail was built to carry freight, connecting our manufacturing centres with the sea ports.

Instead, rich people will be able to travel to London slightly quicker. MPs will undoubtedly use it, passing on the extra cost to us via their expenses.

But this would give them even less time to contemplate the deplorable effects of their actions on the people who elect them. And how will the Government pay for it? By borrowing from foreign investors?

What will happen when the present low rates of interest increase (as they surely will)? They'll have to borrow even more to pay for the extra interest. That's a recipe for national bankruptcy (if we aren't already there).

ROBERT ASTON
Oak Street
Coseley

LETTERS

Eye can see solution to help security

WHAT is wrong with the British Government? Many years ago, when visiting family in America, my wife and I had our fingerprints taken, and photographs of our irises.

These images were used on several occasions when we made further visits.

So, if we had been wearing a head covering, this would not have covered our eyes or hands, would it?

P COLE
Chelford Crescent
Kingswinford

Cuts should start with the council

WILL council leaders consider cutting a) their own wages, b) their expenses, c) their perks, and d) their numbers?

For example, one ward in Dudley that actually has three councillors could be managed by one councillor.

ROBERT LESLIE DUDLEY
Lower Gornal

Birthday plea for twin girls

COULD the parents of twin girls who have had a birthday recently please contact me on 01384 827995 after 3pm as cards and contents have been delivered to me in error. I have been unable to trace the rightful owners in and around the area I live.

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CLUB NEWS

Selection
box talk
on menu

W'TON WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

THE monthly Luncheon, held at The Lindens, Tottenhall Road, on October 23 was attended by a total of 88 people including the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton, speaker Peter Slack and guests, some of whom were gentlemen.

On the menu was chicken caesar salad, pork in a red wine sauce followed by apple crumble, tea or coffee with mints.

After the meal, the chairman Sheila Groom invited the Mayor, Councillor Milkinder Jaspal to say a few words. He said he and his wife were delighted to be invited to the club and went on to give a brief talk about his background and family.

The chairman thanked the Mayor for his talk before introducing Peter Slack, a dairy and sheep farmer in the Peak District.

His humorous talk was entitled "I'm not lost; I'm just not sure where I am". He spoke about his observations of visitors to his area.

Votes of thanks were given to the club from the guests and to the speaker by Michael Groom.

On November 27 the speaker will be Jennie Storr on "Jennie's Christmas selection box" and the menu will be Florida cocktail, roast turkey and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce.

Mayor and MP are the birthday guests



From left, Dudley Mayoress Heather Finch, president John Cartwright and Mayor Alan Finch

DUDLEY PROBUS LUNCHEON CLUB

DUDLEY Probus Luncheon Club held its 40th anniversary dinner at its usual venue, The Lodge in Wellington Road, Dudley.

The dinner was hosted by club president John Cartwright, with guests the Mayor of Dudley Alan Finch and the Mayoress Mrs Heather Finch.

The club also welcomed Dudley North MP Ian Austin. After the dinner, Probus member Alan Wedge gave a brief history of the club followed by slide show covering some of the events.

Eloquent guest speaker's topic was Mother of Pearl

KINGSWINFORD TG

KINGSWINFORD Guild met in the Community Centre in High Street on November 11.

After welcoming members, chairman Enid Fennell, welcomed two visitors, Wendy Jarratt and Linda Trehern.

After completing the essential business, members were reminded that as the December meeting will be a Christmas luncheon, and the weather in January may be inclement, they should be giving serious thought to the matter of next year's committee.

Following reading of the Federation report, members

were asked to volunteer to become part of the Federation team for the national quiz. The selection will be made in the New Year and the regional round will take place in Stourbridge.

Wednesday club, rambling group, scrabble group and luncheon club all revealed the extent of their activities until the beginning of 2014.

There was an extra raffle prize, beautiful chrysanthemums presented by Doreen Comley, which had been grown by her husband. Raffle prizes were won by

Sally Fowler and Sheila Watts

The speaker was George Hook who talked about his business of making products from Mother of Pearl. He was very eloquent.

There was a brisk trade at the end as members made their purchases. He was thanked by Enid Fennell.

Potential new members, or visitors are invited to join the group at the community centre, Kingswinford at 7.30 on January 13. Mr and Mrs Betts will talk about Witley Court and Gardens.

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NEWS

More than 230 homes proposed at quarry site



The vast Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis would be filled to allow 260 homes and a nature reserve to be created AROUND 260 new homes and a nature reserve will be built on the site of a historic quarry under new plans revealed by the site owners.

Under the proposals the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis will be restored and homes, businesses and a wildlife reserve constructed – bringing new jobs in a process that may take more than 25 years.

The latest multi-million pound plans for the quarry in Portway Road were unveiled by the owner and developer FCC Environment at a public exhibition. They include two housing options that could see either 260 homes built or a second option that would see around 235 homes completed along with a mixture of shops and businesses or a residential care home.

David Molland, senior planning, permitting and property manager at FCC Environment, said the first homes could be ready to move into within the next ten years.

We think we've struck a balance

between providing the necessary elements which help deliver the restoration commercially and providing the long term vision for the restored site," he said. "Having spoken with people at the last exhibition the one thing that was really important to them was access to the site once it's complete."

Community

"Because of that we have decided to restore it and create a large open space with footpaths and play areas for the local community."

The updated proposals have been developed after extensive consultation with businesses and home owners near to the site, who asked for greater public access, provision for local wildlife and improvements to local roads.

Mr Molland added: "We are being completely honest and open with people and consultation is a really important part of the process."

"At the end of the day something needs to be done to improve the site. The quarry will eventually need to be filled and we are working on a plan to find the best solution."

The site, a quarry for more than 100 years, is co-owned by Lafarge Tarmac, Hanson and FCC Environment. They want to regenerate the site. Soil and rubble will be used to fill the quarry.

"We've had a lot of positive comments but traffic has been a big issue for a lot of people," said Mr Molland. "To reduce disruption we will be using smaller, quieter trucks more frequently."

The quarry stopped operating in 2008 when it ran out of stone. Since then it has been used for landfill waste.

It is proposed that 'inert' materials, such as soil and rubble, will be processed at a building which is already on the site and that will be used to fill the quarry.

Material will need to be processed at a rate of eight trucks an hour to fill the vast hole. More than 530,000 tonnes of material a year will be brought on site over two and a half decades. The treatment plant will create 20 jobs during its operational phase and an on-site power station will produce electricity from gases under the landfill cap.



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MEMORY LANE



Mr Green seen at his home when he was 80



The young man in his Territorial Army uniform



An image of Mr Green in jungle attire



David Green with his father's medals at his home in Longlake Avenue, Wolverhampton



Mr Green, left, seen in Singapore before the Second World War

Veteran who suffered POW brutality made most of life

HE WAS detained in one of the most infamous Japanese prisoner of war camps for almost five years, and subjected to brutal treatment, forced labour, food shortages and sickness.

But despite leaving the camp close to death, war hero from West Bromwich Theodore Green went on to live a long and happy life, with a large family and long career.

Tributes have now been paid to the veteran, who has died at the age of 90.

Mr Green joined the territorial army at the age of 17, but within weeks he had signed up to the regular army after the outbreak of the Second World War.

He along with his brothers left the family home to do their duty and all

By Naomi Dunning

caught the train to Hednesford to join up. He became a private in the 14 Section Royal Army Ordnance Corps attached to the South Staffordshire Regiment in munitions, and within months was sent to Singapore in the Far East.

Captured

But after being there only a matter of months the section was soon in trouble and whilst waiting for back-up from the allies, the Japanese invaded.

The help didn't reach them in time and Mr Green was captured outside the Raffle Hotel, Singapore in 1940.

Mr Green was first taken to Changi jail in the eastern part of Singapore, before being transported to the Batu Lintang camp in Kuching, Sarawak in

Borneo, a 50-acre site with a maximum of 3,000 prisoners.

His son David Green, aged 66, from Compton said his father spent his 18th birthday at the camp, and only managed to get one note home.

The camp was eventually liberated on September 11 1945, but Mr Green did not leave until September 28, having to be carried out and weighing just four stone.

Mr Green didn't return home to Wolverhampton until 1946, and for years afterwards would have bad bouts of malaria.

His son said: "I am extremely proud of him."

"To think what he endured, it must have been awful. But to get well and carry on makes me proud. He protected us all from it, which I'm very grateful for."

He added: "He didn't really talk at

all about his time at the camp. I'm not sure what he went through but it must have been terrible."

"Reading about the camp now is very emotional."

Mr Green married his wife Joyce in 1947 and the couple, who lived in Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton, had 10 children, who had 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

After the war he became a painter and decorator and long distance lorry driver. He then spent 21 years as an ambulance driver. He was also a keen artist. He spent his last year at Aldergrove Manor Care Home on Penn Road, and died on October 15 at New Cross Hospital after a long illness.

His son added: "He was a very hard worker, and always looked after his family. He was always good natured and pleasant."

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- Investing extra money in family doctor services to make it easier for people to get a GP appointment.
- Making sure that all urgent care services work together more effectively for patients - including GP services at evenings and weekends and the 111 telephone helpline.

If you can't make it to one of these meetings, don't worry - there are other ways for you to find out more and have your say. Please see our website at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care for more information, or ring us on 01384 322777.

NEWS

Leasowes students impressed with skills

BLACK Country secondary schools proved they have what it takes to make it in manufacturing by inventing the transportation solutions of the future in a competition.

A team from Leasowes High School in Halesowen beat 11 other schools in the Make It with The Skills Factory Challenge, a collaboration between The Manufacturing Institute and The Black Country Skills Factory.

The 13 and 14-year-olds had to set up their own mini-manufacturing businesses and were tasked with designing, building and marketing a future transport solution for their choice of customer.

Managers

Teams members each took on job roles from managing director to operations managers through to finance, sales and marketing managers.

They were also challenged with developing a brand for their company before pitching their fully costed ideas in a 'Dragons' Den-style presentation to manufacturing industry leaders from across the region including representatives from United Technologies, ZF Lemforder UK, Huf UK, Hadley Industries and Caterpillar Wolverhampton.

Judges praised the Leasowes team whose 'flying bullet' vehicle was designed for business people to whizz through towns and cities.

The judges were really impressed with the team's use of lightweight materials and how they had considered their customer throughout their business ideas.



The students representing Leasowes High School at the prestigious event



The winning team and teachers are pictured celebrating outside Molineux

The team from Aldersley High School in Wolverhampton came a close second with their environmentally-friendly FTS, which ran on tracks and used bio-diesel to reduce the impact on the environment.

Outstanding individuals on the day were Kieran Bradley from Brownhills School and Charlotte Bradley from Moreton School. Both won plaudits for their all-round enthusiasm and can-do attitude throughout the day.

This special event was used to launch The Skills Factory's programme of work with local schools.

It will see the challenge being rolled

out to 25 schools across the Black Country region in partnership with the local education business partnerships.

Colin Parker, director at The Skills Factory, said: "The Skills Factory are extremely pleased to be collaborating with the Manufacturing Institute and industry leaders to encourage young people to find out more about manufacturing and the scope of employment opportunities available to them, from the shop floor to managers and marketing specialists."

The top two schools will now go through to Make It's grand final which is to be held next summer.

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NEWS

Pudsey joined pupils at fundraising events



Pudsey Bear pictured with Emma Tudor, left, and Sam Warby from Halesowen Asda along with youngsters Omar Bahashwan, Chloe Jones, Evan Grantham, Tamzin Adams, Melody Horne, Abigaile Moore-Henderson, Areeba Ahmed, Denim Hadley and Billy Heritage at Halesowen Church of England Primary School in High Street, Halesowen, as they sell cakes in aid of Children in Need.

FROM making cakes to wearing pyjamas, youngsters at a Halesowen school came up with their own range of fundraising activities to help raise money for the annual Children in Need appeal.

Pudsey Bear was able to make a special appearance at Halesowen Church of England Primary School for their cake sale in a bid to boost the total money pouring in for the charity on Friday.

Almost £200 was raised by youngsters throughout the school, in High Street, aged from four to 11-years-old. Children who form part of the School Council struck upon the fundraising idea after they said they wanted to help bring in money for the charity.

Lunchtime

They all brought in cakes from home to sell in the school at break and lunchtime to their fellow classmates and teachers.

And the young children even persuaded their teachers to don their pyjamas to get in on the fun during the big day.

Staff from the Asda supermarket in Halesowen also came down to take part in the event and to help the pupils raise as much money as possible.

Deputy headteacher Steve Payne said: "Everyone had a great day and they did so well to raise that amount of money."

Homecoming for locomotive



Chuffed to have loco back - museum staff Adam Durnin and Peter Harrold with Julie Welch, from Lovell Partnership, and museum director Andrew Lovett outside the Black Country Living Museum

A 90-YEAR-OLD steam locomotive, which once ran on the tracks of the Earl of Dudley's mineral railway, has been restored to its former glory.

The 26-ton Winston Churchill engine will greet thousands of visitors to Dudley's Black Country Living Museum after being given pride of place outside the entrance.

It is a long-awaited homecoming for the 1923 locomotive which has been on loan to London and Cambridge Proper-

ties for around 35 years. The engine has been displayed at the Pensnett Trading Estate, near to the location of the railway line it was built to serve. But bosses last year decided it was time for the locomotive to return home.

Plinth

Officials from development firm Lovell Partnership prepared the ground and plinth outside the museum's main entrance on Tipton Road for the engine to be displayed.

The firm, which has built new

homes nearby, said it was delighted to have taken part in the project.

Its support was worth around £5,000 to the museum.

Museum director Andrew Lovett said: "It is great to have the locomotive back and placed where everyone will be able to see it. We have given it a fresh coat of paint so it is back to its former glory."

Mr Lovett said he was not sure why the locomotive had not been put on display when it was first donated to the museum back in the 1970s.



Tiger Joao is eased from the lorry that brought him to Dudley



The arrival is lowered into his new enclosure on Castle Hill



Final moments before the tiger is released from his cage



Sumatran tiger Joao surveys his new domain at the zoo

Eye of the tiger is on new home and mate

DUDLEY Zoo has taken delivery of its newest resident, rare Sumatran tiger Joao.

After travelling hundreds of miles by land and sea, Joao made his grand entrance at the attraction by crane.

The 20-month-old tiger, who had travelled from Krefeld Zoo, Germany, was then carefully carried into the enclosure which is on the upper level of the 40-acre site where he will be introduced to three-year-old female Daseep.

He brings with him hopes of a new generation of big cats as Joao is part of a major international conservation programme for the critically endangered species.

Tricky

Zoo chief executive, Peter Suddock, said: "The big cat Tecton enclosure is a tricky one to negotiate and we used a crane to manoeuvre the tiger into the building."

"Not only does this make the transfer easier, but it also eliminates the need to anaesthetise Joao and meant we could introduce him to the internal dens immediately and get him settled. It sounds a difficult move but it's something we've done since the zoo opened in 1937 and although it looks complicated, it's

by Heather Large

fairly straightforward and ensures Joao was in his new home and set to meet Daseep as soon as possible."

Daseep is ranked as the world's second most important female in the genetic pool for the rare sub-species which now numbers fewer than 140 in the wild.

Staff are hoping to build on their successful breeding record for Sumatran tigers. Eight cubs were born at the Castle Hill site between 2000 and 2005. It alone increased the world population of this incredible sub-species by two per cent and went on to boost programmes across the world.

Assistant curator, Richard Brown, said: "We are all delighted and relieved that Joao is here at last. He is a superb tiger and has already started communicating with the female through vocalisation. We are very hopeful he will settle in over the weekend and be out in the external enclosure to meet the public very soon."

Registrar and research coordinator, Dr David Beeston, said: "We hope these genetically important animals will soon breed and boost the numbers in the important European breeding population for this highly endangered species."

Who's who of Who, sports and glamour stars at NEC

TV and sports stars from yesteryear will be meeting fans and signing autographs at the MCM Birmingham Comic Con and Memorabilia shows at the NEC this weekend. Themes this year include Red Dwarf and Quadrophonia reunions, a Doctor Who line-up for the 50th anniversary of the show, Wolves stars and a bevy of beauties.

The reunion for TV sci-fi comedy Red Dwarf features Chris Barrie (Rimmer), Danny John-Jules (The Cat), Robert Llewellyn (Kryten) and Hattie Hayridge (Holly). Stars of '80s mod movie Quadrophonia in attendance will include Phil Daniels, Toyah Willcox and Daniel Peacock. The Doctor Who alumni include Katy Manning (Third Doctor companion Jo), Kai Owen from Torchwood, Frances Barber, Roger Lloyd-Pack and scriptwriter Bob Baker.

Wolves legends Steve Bull, Andy Mutch Jody Craddock are at Memorabilia on Sunday. Others celebrities include Richard Donat and Kate Felton from Haven, Josef Altin from Game Of Thrones, Call Of Duty's Craig Fairbrass, models Kyla Cole and Bex Shiner. One ticket admits to both shows, on Saturday and Sunday, available online at www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham and children aged 10 or younger are admitted free with a paying adult, a maximum of two children per adult.

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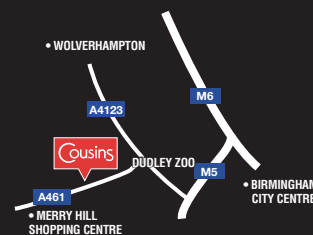
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NEWS

Prestigious support slots for singer



Sunjay Brayne - live album

DUDLEY singer-songwriter Sunjay Brayne has been chosen to support folk-rock legends Steelee Span for nine dates on their Winter-smith tour.

The band, who are famous for hits such as All Around My Hat and Gaudette, started their tour on November 15 and are fronted by Maddy Prior who has been the lead singer for nearly 40 years.

Brayne will be among support acts such as Spiers and Boden, two founder members of Bellowhead which recently sold out Symphony Hall in Birmingham.

Award-winning Brayne, 20, who is based at the Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's in the town, was launching his new live album there last night (Wednesday) while supporting Canadian blues singer Matt Anderson. Brayne said: "I am really excited about being asked to support Steel-

eye Span on their Winter tour. It's a fantastic opportunity for any artist, but at a stage where I'm just really starting out it's an amazing opportunity.

"The venues are all pretty big so its just what I need to get my music out there. Also, Steelee are an incredibly prestigious band so it's wonderful to be included," he added.

The album is made up from two sets Brayne, originally from Derby but now living in Brierley Hill, performed at the Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford.

His support dates are: Monday, Southport Theatre & Convention Centre; Tuesday, St George's Hall, Bradford; Wednesday, The Sage, Gateshead; Thursday, Floral Pavilion Theatre, New Brighton; December 2, The Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury; 3 Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; 16 Opera House, Buxton; 19. City Hall, Salisbury.

Goat on loose in High Street - we kid you not

HE was found taking a stroll along a high street in the Black Country - and now this goat's adventurous outing has led to him being cared for by a nearby sanctuary.

The young Pygmy was taken to Brockwood Animal Sanctuary in Sedgley after being rounded up by police on Brierley Hill High Street.

Officers, who were contacted by a

member of the public who spotted the creature on Sunday morning, are now trying to trace the animal's owner and have warned anyone claiming ownership will need to explain why the goat was not tagged.

Sanctuary

Pc Phil Glover, of West Midlands Police, said: "The goat was rounded up and he was taken to the animal sanctuary where he will be looked after."

People with information on the goat

are asked to call officers on the non-emergency number 101.

Owner of Brockwood Animal Sanctuary Neil Swan said: "The police brought the goat, a young male Pygmy, to us and we are happy to take it in and look after it," he said.

"Although calls like this are not common they do happen. Generally it is people bringing animals to us because they can no longer look after them.



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CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.



Police received a call on Sunday that really got their goat - they thought it was a joke who the caller told of a goat on the loose in Brierley Hill's High Street



The rescued Pygmy goat was taken to Brockwood Animal Sanctuary after being found in the High Street and is pictured with farm manager Sarah Beales

Police release pictures linked to needle attacks

A MAN suspected of stabbing several women with hypodermic needles in Birmingham may have struck another six times, police have revealed.

Officers said more who believed they were victims had come forward as they issued images of men they think could hold vital information. The suspect and potential victims were captured on film just after an attack at around 3am on November 3, when a 30-year-old woman felt a sharp pain in her thigh, which was later confirmed as a puncture wound.

Detective Inspector Julie Woods said: "Although the women have not been left with any obvious physical injuries they have had to endure an agonising wait to check that they have not suffered any long-lasting health effects. It is believed that a hypodermic needle may have been used on each occasion with young women being specifically targeted. Due to the nature of the offences, victims have not realised they have been injured until hours or days later."

Anyone who recognises either of the men in the images should contact detectives from Force CID on 101 or call the Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



The potential witness, circled in green, and the suspect, right, who is circled in red

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NEWS

Fewer cheaper homes on site

A DOWNSIZED housing development on the site of a former factory which helped the war effort has been backed by council planners.

Developer Taylor Wimpey says it is unable to provide the desired number of affordable homes as part of the scheme because of improved access and parking. Taylor Wimpey is behind the scheme for homes at the former Lloyds factory site in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, which were approved by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday night.

Welcoming the plans, Councillor Colin Wilson said: "I remember the time when this was a vibrant engineering company. I'm confident this is a good scheme."

The engineering firm made propellers during the Second World War before shifting production to heavy duty chains and rings.

But the firm moved production to India by 2006, leading to the factory being demolished for redevelopment.

A scheme won outline approval more than four years ago for 156 homes but those plans have since been revised. Taylor Wimpey had wanted to build 82 homes but two of the properties have been lost to improve access and parking.

Mounds of rubbish will cost £60k to clear away



A man from Rowley Regis has been jailed for eight months for allowing this huge pile of waste, stretching almost 7ft high, to be illegally dumped on a Dudley trading estate on a promise of £20,000 in cash

REACHING almost 7ft high and weighing 400 tons – this is the eyesore of illegally dumped waste on a Dudley trading estate.

The rubbish left on land at Dornston Trading Estate in Dudley saw Allan Priest, of Holy Road, Rowley Regis, jailed for eight months for allowing it to be dumped.

Environment bosses said they would not hesitate to prosecute anyone else flouting the law in a similar way.

Cash

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Priest, 61, took out a lease in his own name at the trading estate in Burton Road in May last year on the understanding another party would

drop rubbish on the land. That was on the promise of £20,000 cash.

The dumping was reported on June 7 last year and a week later, officers from the Environment Agency visited the site and said that 400 tons of waste had been dumped, including wood, plastics, soil, paint cans and rags.

The defendant was issued with a notice to clear the hill of waste on December 12. Priest admitted failing to comply with the enforcement notice by January 3 at an earlier court hearing. He also pleaded guilty on October 18 to operating a waste operation without a permit on or before June 7 last year.

The court heard the clean-up bill would be around £60,000.

Judge Mark Eades lamented that 'the principal people had got off'.

Passing sentence, he told Priest: "You knew you were a man of straw."

For running the waste operation without a permit Priest was given eight months in jail, and there was no separate penalty for failing to comply with the enforcement notice.

He also admitted breaching a community order imposed on May 14 for making indecent images of children, in that he did not attend pre-assessment appointments for courses on June 19 and September 19.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, stressed that Priest pleaded guilty to all the charges.

Priest was sentenced to another six months in prison to run consecutively for breaching his community order, leaving him with a combined jail term of 14 months.

Protest outside petrol station to boost awareness of 'Arctic 30'

CARS sounded their horns in support as protesters gathered on a busy road in Stourbridge to highlight the plight of 28 Greenpeace activists and two journalists held in a Russian prison.

Greenpeace protesters bearing placards gathered at the Shell garage in Hagley Road to drum up support for their campaign. The so-called Arctic 30 were arrested after protesting at an oil rig in the Russia in September and now face charges.

Greenpeace is targeting Shell petrol stations across the UK following reports that the company is to join with Russian oil giant Gazprom in drilling projects.

Some 18 Stourbridge protesters were part of the Birmingham and Black Country branch of the organisation, with some

travelling far as far as Wales to take part.

Co-ordinator for the group, 27-year-old Elle Jones, from Brierley Hill, said the protest on Saturday had been a big success and that passing motorists and pedestrians showed great interest in their campaign.

"We've been speaking to a lot of people and the reaction has been very positive," she said. "The main reason for this is to raise awareness with ordinary people"

Greenpeace UK executive director John Sauven outlined the reasons behind the campaign, claiming Shell could not operate safely in the Arctic and were taking 'huge unnecessary risks' with the environment.

He added: "Shell were thrown out of the Alaskan Arctic by the US Government following a series of blunders and accidents."



Protesters at the Shell garage in Hagley Road

Shell responded to the protests by stating that any organisation has the right to protest peacefully, as long as it does not affect staff or customers.

Thief grabbed cash from 91-year-old

HE WAS visiting his grandchildren in Brierley Hill but Clive Richards swiped £200 from the hands of a 91-year-old collecting his pension. Richards, 43, is now behind bars after being jailed for the theft.

Richards committed the crime that left the pensioner needing hospital treatment, despite having a grandchild in a pushchair with him.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Richards distracted his victim and then grabbed the cash out of his hand. The elderly man fell as he tried to stop the thief and needed hospital treatment.

Ms Rhiannon Jones, prosecuting, told the court: "The defendant had been behind him in a queue and had attempted to withdraw £20 out of his account but was told he couldn't as he had insufficient funds. He carried out a distraction theft. The defendant claimed the victim had dropped something

on the floor and, as he looked down, the defendant positioned himself on the other side of the victim and took £200 in cash.

"He has then gone to walk away with a pushchair he had with him and the complainant has then attempted to prevent this and in doing so has fallen and hit his head on the floor."

The theft took place just before 9am on June 17 and Richards was later arrested in the Bristol area.

Mr Daniel White, defending, said: "Mr Richards is utterly ashamed of himself for what he did. He wasn't aware how old the victim was he knew he was elderly but not to that extent. He lives in the Exeter area but his grandchildren live in Brierley Hill."

Richards, of Harrington Lane, Exeter, pleaded guilty to a single charge of theft. Judge Walsh sentenced him to 20 months in prison.

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Finally you arrive at the picture postcard resort of Cha-Am, set beside the blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand where you can relax and enjoy this beachside hotel. Again two optional excursions are offered to nearby Hua Hin, the favourite holiday resort of the Thai Royal family, and the riverside town of Phetchaburi.



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NEWS

M40 tragedy families in new minibus safety plea

FAMILIES of 12 children killed with their teacher in a minibus disaster 20 years ago have launched a campaign, saying they fear youngsters on school trips are still at risk.

Victims' families this week marked the heartbreaking anniversary with a special mass at the children's school, Hagley Roman Catholic High.

And they called for action to improve safety for other schoolchildren – with the slogan 'now is the time' – saying only luck had prevented a similar crash from happening.

Lessons

Despite new laws that all minibuses must be fitted with three-point fastening seat belts, parents of the victims are still haunted by fears that a similar tragedy could happen again.

Steve Fitzgerald, whose 13-year-old daughter Claire died, said: "On the 20th anniversary of the death of our children, we simply ask, what lessons have been learned from the 20

Report by Louise Jew

years we have had without our children? Not nearly enough.

"Certainly, nothing is in place to prevent such a crash from happening again."

The party from Hagley RC High was returning from a Schools Proms concert at the Royal Albert Hall just after midnight on November 18 1993, when their minibus hit the back of a motorway maintenance lorry on the hard shoulder of the M40, near Warwick.

An inquest, which recorded verdicts of accidental death, heard that teacher Eleanor Fry, who was driving, had worked all day before the trip and had probably fallen asleep at the wheel.

Warwickshire Coroner Michael Coker said seatbelts would have been a "lifesaver" for the teacher and pupils. It is now law that the vehicles must have forward facing three-point fasteners.

However, schools and voluntary groups today are able to run minibuses – under 'Permit 19' – meaning they are not subject to the safety checks compulsory for commercial operators and also that volunteer drivers do not have to undertake specialist minibus training.

Mr Ted Hammond, who is now headmaster at Hagley RC High School and was deputy at the time of the accident, said teachers at the school now had to have special minibus training and even more training if planning to pull a trailer.

The school also had a 'clear and strict' policy about the length of journeys teachers can drive in any single trip and the circumstances under which they can drive after working all day.

Pat Harris, from Newport in South Wales, who founded the group Belt Up School Kids – BUSK – nine months before the Hagley pupils' deaths, said: "We should make sure voluntary minibuses operated by schools are driven by teachers who should have the same level of training as drivers for a commercial company."

Daughter

Tony Misiolek, whose daughter Nicola died in the crash said: "A catalogue of things led up to the minibus crash and there was complacency at the time. For instance, we weren't aware until later that Miss Fry had worked all day – and she should have had a co-driver, which might have prevented her possibly falling asleep."

Mr Fitzgerald added: "Not a day goes by when I don't ask why they died and whether children who travel around now are any safer than they were 20 years ago."

Tribute to accident victims



Pupil Madeline Chamberlain, 17, with the stained glass window at Hagley RC High School, in tribute to those killed in the bus crash tragedy of 20 years ago

THE morning light shining through a stained glass window, reflecting vibrant colours on the walls, makes sure that pupils and staff will never forget their school's darkest hour.

None of today's pupils had been born when 12 of their predecessors and a teacher at Hagley RC High School were killed in a minibus crash on the M40 20 years ago this week.

Today's pupils are all aware of the

tragedy, learning about the meaning of that beautiful window, standing 12ft tall and 3ft wide on the main school staircase.

On Monday more than 200, including families of those who died, staff and former pupils from 1993, attended a memorial mass.

The service in the school hall was led by Bishop David McGough, who in 1993 was parish priest of Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church in Stourbridge.

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NEWS

Jobs chief urges caution over fall in unemployment

SANDWELL'S jobs boss cautiously welcomed a drop in unemployment in light of new figures which showed job queues are shrinking in the borough.

Latest figures showed that in Sandwell, the claimant count was down by 484 to 11,445, of 5.8 per cent of the working population.

National unemployment has fallen to its lowest level in two-and-a-half years.

Authenticity

The borough's jobs and economy boss, Councillor Ian Jones said he hoped people who had benefit sanctions – where benefits are docked for those missing job centre appointments – were not masking the true extent of unemployment.

Councillor Jones said: "The council's efforts to get people back into work are well established now and this is showing in the figures."

"Unfortunately, the authenticity of the

figures needs to be considered because last week a national report said over 500,000 people were sanctioned last year which means you don't count in the unemployment figures.

"Whilst we welcome improvement, we also need to know if this is a smoke and mirrors exercise by the Government but we know in Sandwell we are working to get people back into work through our own efforts."

Nationally unemployment was down by 48,000 between July and September to 2.47 million – the lowest since the spring of 2011.

In the West Midlands it was down 15,000 to 257,000 over the three months, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The number of people in work has reached a record high of almost 30 million.

Meanwhile the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance was cut for the 12th month in a row in October, down by 41,700 to 1.31 million, the lowest for almost five years.

Time for one last dance as The Public bows out



Organisers Penny and Brian Williamson and members of the tea dance bade a fond farewell to The Public after their four years of fun at the venue

IT WAS an emotional goodbye as more than 200 people danced their last tango in the venue they have called home for four years.

The fortnightly tea dance at The Public waltzed its way out of the arts centre last Thursday ahead of the building's closure on Saturday.

Dancers come from right across the Black Country and Birmingham and even as far as Solihull, many suited and booted. They turned out to take part in one of the region's most popular dance events and their own little piece of history.

In the time since the Tea Dance started at The Public in 2009, friendships have been forged, and one or two relationships have even blossomed.

And at the final event in the building's Longroom yesterday afternoon there were tears, there was laughter, and there was a lot of cake.

Attendances

It was a bittersweet day for the event's organisers Brian and Penny Williamson, who are sad to be leaving The Public, but glad of the memories they have created.

The couple, from Claverdon Drive in Great Barr, started the dance with just 12 people four years ago, and it has now grown to regular attendances of up to 180 people.

Mr Williamson, aged 71, said: "It is the people themselves that make this event what it is – I just put the music on, but the people keep coming back."

"People come from all over, Wolverhampton, Halesowen, Northfield, and we've had some from Leamington and Stratford. Some people have even paired up since they've been here."

"The Public itself has also been great, the staff have been very good and looked after us. When we heard what was happening we were shattered."

"When it was first mentioned we couldn't believe it because we don't think the council gave it time to get established with New Square having just opened. If they had given it five years it would have been in profit."

The couple are now preparing to start the event in its new venue at West Bromwich Town Hall, after Sandwell Council approached them and asked if they would like to move there. Mrs Williamson said she hopes people continue to attend, but is sad to be moving.

She said: "It can not be the same, never. It's been really special here. The floor here is incredible, it's a beautiful floor to dance on, and it's a modern space. In West Bromwich properties are older and need a little bit of TLC, but this is modern and clean, and the staff are wonderful here."

Betty Armstrong, aged 78 and from Church Lane, West Bromwich, has been going to the event since it started and has made friends who she has been on trips and holidays with.

In a farewell speech to the venue, she said: "They have taken The Public away, but they can't take away our memories. They've taken away the happiest days of my life, it's been a pleasure coming here."

The first tea dance at West Bromwich Town Hall will be on December 4.

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Pledge on future of superhospital

HEALTH chiefs in Sandwell say their plans for a £370 million superhospital remain on track, with construction three years away.

The 670-bed Midland Metropolitan Hospital scheme has been drawn up by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals trust for land in Smethwick.

But they have been hit by delays, prompting officials to apply to extend planning permission for the scheme and work is still not due to begin until 2016.

Bosses at the trust which runs Sandwell, Rowley Regis and City hospitals, remain committed to the project and say until it finally gets off the ground they will be expanding services for patients.

Replace

The development is earmarked for Grove Lane and will replace Sandwell Hospital in West Bromwich and City Hospital in Winson Green.

All of the current properties on the site have now been bought and bosses insist the scheme is moving forward.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the trust, said: "We continue to progress discussions about the potential new hospital. If all necessary external permissions are obtained this financial year, then construction would commence in 2016."

Mr Lewis said that in the period from now until work starting, extra efforts were being made to make sure existing healthcare provision could be expanded for patients.

"Meanwhile, we are working with partners to expand services in general practice and in community settings. ew services have moved into Rowley Regis and the Portway Lifestyle Centre in recent weeks and we are looking to move the majority of clinics for diabetes into primary care settings over this winter."

"The great benefit for local patients of the proposed Midland Metropolitan Hospital is that it concentrates acute specialist care."

"This means that scarce, highly skilled clinicians will be available to look after the sickest patients more quickly, seven days a week, day and night."

"That is what we believe is needed, as soon as possible, for the half a million people who need our care."

"This can only be achieved with one major emergency department, supported by local urgent care centres."

The hospital is due to take up 16 acres on Grove Lane but a further 31 acres of land between Grove Lane, Cranford Street, Heath Street and Dugdale Lane is to be transformed into other employment opportunities and housing schemes.



Bodies beautiful – The Teenage Mr Britain, Bradley Gilroy, far right, leads other novice bodybuilders as they pose for the crowd gathered at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

Best of British bodies on show

AROUND 70 novice bodybuilders flexed their muscles as they vied for the top spot in a competition.

Competitors, male and female, descended on Brierley Hill Civic Hall to take part in range of categories, including Teenage Mr Britain and the Open First Timers Mr Britain. For many it was their debut in a final and organisers described the event as the 'first rung of the ladder' in a bodybuilder's career.

Hundreds of people packed into the venue, off Bank Street, on Sunday to watch as competitors took to the stage to be judged. The event was held by the National Amateur Bodybuilders' Association.

Electrician

Competitors travelled from as far afield as Blackpool to compete in the event which started at around 2pm.

And Rowley Regis bodybuilder Nick Whitehouse was celebrating after taking first place in the Open First Timers Mr Britain category.

The 30-year-old electrician, of Bryan Budd Close, had to qualify for his place in the category. He said: "I was a bit nervous but I have an excellent support team and the crowd were very supportive."

"I was delighted to take first place in the category. It is the second competition I have won and the atmosphere at the event was brilliant."

Organiser Jim Charles, a former bodybuilding champion himself, said the event had been a major success. "Some travelled miles to take part," he said.

Special guest star at the event was Andy Polhill, the association's overall Mr Universe in 2012.

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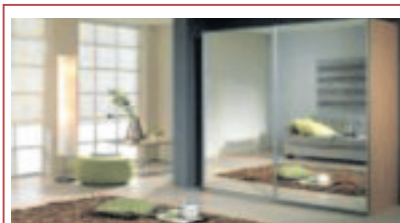
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NEWS

Merry Hill festive lights event has the X Factor



The final countdown – special guests including singer Lauren Wright, The X Factor's Union J, Rylan Clark and Black Country TV presenter Mark Rhodes switch on Merry Hill shopping centre's festive lights

THE FESTIVE shopping season kicked off in style when thousands turned out to see X Factor favourites Union J and Rylan Clark at Merry Hill's Christmas lights switch-on.

Screaming crowds gathered to see the shopping centre's official Christmas lights switch-on and watch the singers perform on stage.

The event was hosted by former Pop Idol contestants turned TV and radio presenters Sam Nixon and Darla-ton's Mark Rhodes.

Up to 9,000 tickets were

sold for the extravaganza which also included performances from up-and-coming band R3 and singer Lauren Wright.

Flurries of artificial snow and a colourful fireworks display finished the big night off with a bang.

Proceeds from the ticket sales were going to Help Harry Help Others, the Brierley Hill centre's chosen charity this year. The charity was started by brave youngster Harry Moseley who battled a brain tumour until his death two years ago.



A flurry of synthetic snow as crowds numbering thousands enjoy the illumination of the Christmas lights at Merry Hill

star★extraTRAVEL

NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London next year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madame Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris.

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May 2014, the production's 25th anniversary year – tickets are available now.

Adapted from one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century, Tim Rice's gripping tale of illicit love and army life is an exciting and romantic show that is sure to become one of the great new musicals.

Set in Pearl Harbor in 1941 where even on an army base, love and desire are never very far away, troubled Private Prewitt falls for a kind hearted escort club girl whilst his platoon sergeant, Warden (played by Darius Campbell) embarks on a dangerous affair with his commanding officer's wife Karen. As war approaches, the worlds of these four lovers and the soldiers of G Company are dramatically ripped apart.

From Here to Eternity is at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

Coach inclusive breaks

Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £154.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A ticket for an evening performance of From Here to Eternity* (Miss Saigon is from £164.95)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Dine and Dance from £159.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- A ticket for a matinee performance of From Here to Eternity* (Miss Saigon is from £169.95)
- After dinner disco in your hotel on Saturday evening
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Rail inclusive breaks

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Departures most weekends

Saturday Night from £154.95**

- Return standard rail travel from your chosen station
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A ticket for an evening performance of From Here to Eternity* (Miss Saigon is from £169.95)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95**

- Return coach travel
- Two-nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- A top-priced ticket for a Friday evening performance of From Here to Eternity or Miss Saigon*
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Omega Events ABTA Y590X

*Other West End shows are also available to book. Further details can be found online or in our Theatre brochures.
**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

For a brochure or a list of all our current breaks call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel
Please read brochure/web pages for full information plus terms and conditions
Coach pick-up points offered are: Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Telford and Shrewsbury

star★extraTRAVEL

VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddhist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.

16 days
Various departure dates
FROM £1,959*

Price includes:

- Return scheduled flights
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- Five lunches
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- Guided tours of Hanoi, Hue and Saigon
- Cruise aboard a converted Chinese junk visiting caves and grottoes at Halong Bay.
- Visit the Cu Chi tunnels in Saigon
- Full-day cruise along the mighty Mekong River delta
- Visit the ancient city and temples of Angkor, Cambodia
- Guided tour of Phnom Penh
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

*varies according to departure dates please go to website for the latest availability and prices

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

For a brochure call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel
Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Express & Star Shop

Advertisement feature

Welcome to the Express & Star Christmas Shop

Whether you're almost prepared for Christmas, or if you tend to leave it all until the last minute as so many of us do, we're sure you'll find what you need at www.expressandstarshop.co.uk. Within the next four pages you will find a range of gifts for your loved ones, from the pretty to the practical and all with fantastic savings – there really is something for everyone! There's a variety of kitchen essentials which will make preparation of your festive feast a breeze, as well as making perfect presents for keen cooks. We've also included a selection of our bestselling homeware items – whether you have family or friends staying for Christmas or are just looking to spruce up your home, these are our top picks to keep you cosy and warm all winter long.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Express & Star Shop!

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This eye-catching jewellery is set in solid silver. The pendant is 19mm with 2 carats of amethyst and a diamond, the matching earrings contain 2.5 carats of amethyst with 2 diamonds.

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The soft leather uppers provide comfort your feet will thank you for.

Choose from the Outdoor Mule with a rugged hardwearing sole and a fully padded insole, suitable for indoor and outdoor wear, the Albert with a soft leather lining or the Grecian with its wool lining.

Available in sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

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(BV119)



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Grecian Brown
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Grecian Black,
Wool lined (BV904)

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ENGLAND

SLIMLINE HI-FI SYSTEM

Black



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Cherry



£129.99 RRP £299.99 Save £170

This contemporary, slimline music centre is superbly styled and boasts an amazing six functions to suit all your musical needs. There is a turntable for all of your 33s, 45s and 78s, an AM/FM radio with a fine-tuning dial and integral aerial for perfect reception and a front-loading CD player with bright, crystal-clear LCD display and backlit controls. There's even a handy cassette deck for you to enjoy your favourite tape recordings.

The integrated USB connection and PC software allows you to record and store your much-loved songs and albums to your PC so you can play them on your MP3 player. Also included is an aux-in function that allows you to play other devices through your music centre using the stereo speakers included. Available in black or cherry, the hi-fi measures 37 x 31 x 19cm and includes speakers measuring 23 x 15 x 13cm.

D6618 Hi-Fi System - Black
D6619 Hi-Fi System - Cherry
GF666 Spare Stylus £9.99



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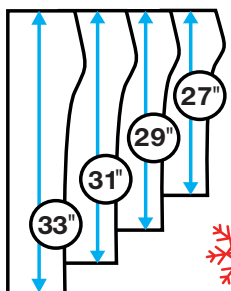
THERMAL LINED CHINOS

£29.99 - BUY ONE PAIR GET ANY OTHER PAIR FREE

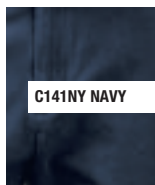
With classic chino styling, two slant pockets, belt loops and two back button pockets these traditional favourites provide the perfect solution for the colder seasons. An additional hidden expanding waist offers an extra two inches of give, enabling you to move and stretch with ease.

All trousers are available in waist sizes: 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46" and 48". Leg sizes: 27", 29", 31", 33".

All styles available in a choice of four lengths



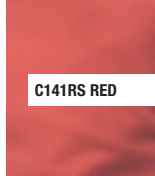
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When not in use you can discreetly store your guest bed away using one of our great covers to protect your bed. Choose from a bespoke fabric cover that slips neatly over your bed, or one of our attractive wooden cupboards that allow your bed to blend seamlessly into the room as though it were a cabinet.

Available in light oak or mahogany, each cabinet measures: W92 x H114 x D37cm. and slides neatly away from the wall to allow access to the bed.

Description	Code	RRP	Price
Deluxe folding guest bed	D6680	£179.99	£129.99
Guest bed fabric cover	D6681	£9.99	£9.99
Cabinet - Light oak	D6733	£129.99	£99.99
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Double	D5753	£42.99	£29.99	D6095	£49.99	£31.99	D6099	£54.99	£32.99
King	D5754	£54.99	£32.99	D6096	£64.99	£34.99	D6100	£69.99	£36.99
S/King	D5755	£64.99	£34.99	D6097	£74.99	£36.99	D6101	£79.99	£39.99
Pillow x 2	D5785	£29.99	£19.99						

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3" Single topper	D2307	£59.99	£39.99	5" Single topper	D6555	£79.99	£59.99
3" Double topper	D2308	£79.99	£59.99	5" Double topper	D6556	£99.99	£79.99
3" King topper	D2309	£99.99	£69.99	5" King topper	D6557	£119.99	£89.99
3" S/king topper	D5956	£109.99	£79.99				
Pillow	D2303	£12.99	£9.99				

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Product	Code	RRP	Price
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Daylight Floor Lamp - Steel	D3944	£99.99	£69.99
Daylight Table Lamp - Brass	D5553	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp - Brass	D5552	£99.99	£69.99
Spare Bulb	D3948	-	£4.99

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D2676 60W Dehumidifier £39.99 RRP £49.99
D3812 75W Dehumidifier £49.99 RRP £69.99

BLACKHEATH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2013
BLACKHEATH TOWN CENTRE

3PM - 8PM

LIGHTS SWITCH ON 6PM

ENTERTAINMENT, FUN FAIR AND STALLS 3PM - 8PM

Halesowen & Rowley Regis Rotary • Fun fair • Charity stalls

Christmas market • Community Safety Team

Free sweets for children (donated by ABBA and local traders)

Rowley Area Band & St Michael's Band • Blackheath Ukelele Group Strummers (BUGS)

School choir • Street entertainment • Traditional Christmas refreshments available

Appearances by Her Worship the Mayor of Sandwell and of course Santa!

Road closures in operation from 1pm - 9pm

ADMISSION: FREE

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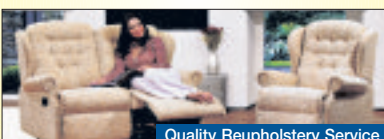
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Valentine's in London

Two days departing February 14

Pick of the week



PRICE FROM £99.⁹⁵

Next year instead of a meal out or a bunch of roses, why not treat your valentine to a romantic break away?

With three different options to choose from there is bound to be something to suit all tastes and pockets.

The first option allows lots of free time in the capital. Maybe enjoy some retail therapy on Oxford Street and Regent Street, visit the craft market stalls and see the street performers around Covent Garden, or just take a romantic stroll in one of the many parks.

Enjoy stunning views of London from two different perspectives on the second option. Prices start from £119.95 and include a one-hour sightseeing cruise on the River Thames starting from Westminster Pier and taking in many landmarks such as the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament. This is followed by a flight on the ultimate sky ride, the London Eye.

Option three prices start from £159.95 and include a standard priced ticket for a top West End show on the evening of Valentine's day. There is a choice of shows and upgrades are also offered, please note supplements are payable for standard tickets for some of the shows offered. This option also includes a River Cruise and flight on the London Eye.

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Two days departing January 11



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- Return coach transfers to the Royal Albert Hall
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 19



PRICE FROM £89.⁹⁵

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
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Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

London by Rail

Three days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £159.⁹⁵

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- Choice of London hotels
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

New Year London Theatre

Three days departing December 30



PRICE FROM £249.⁹⁵

- Return coach travel
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London hotel
- Dinner and after dinner disco at the hotel on New Year's Eve
- Standard price ticket for the evening performance of a choice of West End shows on December 30 (upgrades offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Evening excursion
departing January 29, March 24 and 25



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- Light refreshments on board
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Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomena and sightings cannot be guaranteed
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

The Isle of Man

Four days departing April 18



PRICE FROM £329

- Return coach and ferry crossings
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Two round the island tours accompanied by a local guide
- Visits and entrance fees to the Cregneash Folk Village, Grove House and Laxey Wheel
- Entertainment at the hotel on one evening
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Tour de France London 2014

Two days departing July 6



PRICE FROM £85

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Viewing access to the Tour de France
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6



PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Corsica and the South of France

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £859

- Return flights
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation in Nice
- Five nights half-board accommodation on the island of Corsica
- Coach travel overseas
- Ferry crossings from Nice to Corsica
- Walking tour of Nice
- Guided tour of Corsica's north coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

The Stunning Italian Lakes

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £639

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation, three nights Lake Garda and four nights Lake Mergozzo
- Full day tour of Lake Garda
- Visit to Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands
- Full day tour to Lake Como and Lugano in Switzerland
- Transfers between the lakes
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Rome Ancient and Baroque

Five days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £549

- Return flights
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tour of baroque Rome
- Guided tour of ancient Rome
- Timed visit to the Villa Borghese (entrance fee payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



NEWS

Bright Christmas makes its Deutsche mark



Petra Rhrend runs four units at Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market, which opened for business last week

FESTIVE cheer has returned to the Midlands as the region's biggest Christmas markets opened for business.

Around 190 stalls were lining the streets of Victoria Square, Centenary Square and New Street in Birmingham as the world famous Frankfurt Christmas Market and adjoining Christmas Craft Market opened.

Last year's market – the largest authentic German market in the world, outside Germany and Austria – attracted more than four million visitors last year from across the UK and Europe.

Visitors can soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the sights and smells of fab-

ulous festive food and drink and browse for crafts and gifts. The market started with just 24 stalls when it began during 2001. It now stretches for more than one mile.

Declared

The big wheel is also back in Centenary Square for visitors who want to take a unique view of the city. Frankfurters, hot Gluhwein and sweet pretzels are also on offer for visitors in need of refreshment.

Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Mike Leddy and Mayor of Frankfurt Peter Feldmann officially declared the market open last Friday.

Councillor Leddy said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome back the Frankfurt Market to Birmingham for

its 13th year. This year's 39-day event will provide a fantastic festive celebration for all our visitors to enjoy."

Winter Skate at Birmingham's ice rink will be open daily until January 5, except Christmas Day, with last entries at 9pm. And for those eager to try it out, there are now additional sessions from 7pm on Saturday.

Birmingham's Frankfurt Centenary Square. The Christmas Market and Christmas Craft Market are open from Thursday until Saturday, December 22, from 10am to 9pm daily. For up to date information about the market follow @thechrismoose, or @BirminghamFCM on Twitter. Or you can like Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market & Craft Fair on Facebook.



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What's On!

REVIEW

**Bellowhead
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham**

BELLOWHEAD are not so much a folk band as an 11-player orchestra. They know how to put on a show, infect people with enthusiasm and they are dripping with talent.

Sam Sweeney as a lone piper opened proceedings under a single spotlight, followed by John Boden's distinctive voice coming through the darkness before the full band was revealed to applause from a sold-out crowd.

Jordan was one of the opening songs which set the pace for the rest of the night with the band never letting up, much to the delight of the fans.

They followed this up with 10,000 Miles Away, a track from their most recent album Broadside, which gave free rein to the animated brass section comprising Andy Mellon on trumpet, Brendan Kelly on sax, Ed Neuhauser on the mighty tuba and Justin Thurgur on trombone. These were backed up by Pete Flood on the drums and frying pan, John Spiers on melodeon and Benji Kirkpatrick on banjo.

As the night went on there was a bewildering amount of instrument changes that was as much a spectacle as the performance and songs themselves.

The audience became the 12th man for another favourite from Broadside, Roll the Woodpile Down. Towards the end they kept the audience hopping with one of their most popular hits New York Girls.

DANNY FARRAGHER

There is no escape from this rising star of comedy scene

McBusted team up is a smash hit

FOLLOWING the astonishing success of their reunion at the Royal Albert Hall for McFly's tenth anniversary concert, Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones, Dougie Poynter and Harry Judd have announced they will join forces with James Bourne and Matt Willis, of their former pop rivals Busted, as supergroup McBusted for a UK arena tour.

The response of fans to the Busted/McFly reunion has been phenomenal, despite the absence of Busted singer Charlie Simpson who left the band in 2005 and is not taking part in the reunion.

McBusted have added several dates to meet the clamour for tickets after #mcbusted became the top worldwide trend on Twitter. Together Busted and McFly sold 15 million records worldwide and chalked up 14 number ones, 20 top 3 singles and 27 top ten singles.

Fans can expect a nostalgic set full of favourite Busted and McFly hits, plus a few surprises, when they play gigs at Birmingham LG Arena on May 2, 3 and 17. Tickets are £39.50 for the LG (plus fees) and are available from www.livenation.co.uk or www.ticketmaster.co.uk



If it ain't McBusted why fix it? The noughties' top boy guitar bands join forces

THERE is no getting away from funnyman Andrew Lawrence at the moment. The comic, a double Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, brings his new show to Wolverhampton early next month.

For anyone feeling their life is so awful that they wish they could disappear and never be found, this show should be right up their street.

The comedian performs his 'There Is No Escape' show at the Slade Rooms, in Broad Street, on December 8.

Winner

A winner of the BBC New Act of the Year in 2004, Lawrence has since made a name for himself on the stand-up circuit as well as landing a role in the BBC TV sitcom Ideal.

A Sony Radio Award nominee, Lawrence has twice been shortlisted for the Best Headline Act at the Chortle Award, has appeared on Live At The Apollo and has an acclaimed radio 4 series that bear his name.

Tickets for the Wolverhampton show, which start at 8pm, are priced at £15 or £13 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk



Andrew Lawrence - he is exploring the funny side of feeling really fed up

Ned reunion gig

BLACK Country band Ned's Atomic Dustbin are marking their 25th anniversary with gigs including Birmingham O2 Academy on Saturday night. The band, fronted by Jonn Penney, will play along with Cud, Republica and DJ Steve Lamacq.

REVIEW

**One Night of Queen,
Grand Theatre,
Wolverhampton**

THEY brought their own kind of magic to Wolverhampton and the packed Grand Theatre lapped it up.

From the moment the lights started to flash and the beat struck up, people were singing along to all their favourites as One Night of Queen proved the group's music is as popular as ever.

This tribute band ran through the well-known and not so well-known songs with frequent requests for people to clap and join in all happily met.

Strut

Although Gary Mullen's voice was nowhere near as powerful as the legendary Freddie Mercury, he certainly had all the moves with the struts and sexual innuendos.

The band was excellent, with superb solos from the drummer and lead guitarist but sometimes they did tend to drown out the singing, which was a shame on the more poignant songs.

However, everyone seemed to be in party mood and every time Gary stripped off his jacket or T-shirt the crowd did erupt into screams and furious applause - and he was loving every minute of it.

Coming back on stage at the end for the obvious encore - this group proved that they are still the champions.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 23.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

The X Factor
ITV, 8pm

They may be ratings rivals, but there are obviously a few X Factor fans working on Strictly Come Dancing – this year alone, we've seen routines performed to What Makes You Beautiful by One Direction and Wings by Little Mix. So, it seems only fair that this week the remaining acts on the Simon Cowell's singing contest are also getting the chance to raid The X Factor songbook by performing hits by past contestants. And for anyone fancying a go at Trouble or Dance with Me Tonight, be warned – Olly Murs is this week's guest performer. Dermot O'Leary presents.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.15** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **12.30** Live Rugby League World Cup. **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. A Doctor Who special, with contestants including Sylvester McCoy. **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom battle.

7.50 Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor. As an ancient battle reaches its conclusion, the Doctor's past comes back to haunt him and the whole of reality is at stake. Sci-fi adventure, starring Matt Smith and David Tennant. Also being shown simultaneously in a number of UK cinemas.

9.05 Casualty. Fletch's domestic problems compromise his work.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results.

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Everton v Liverpool; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **5.05** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. **7.50** Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor. **9.05** Casualty.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.50** Film: The Company She Keeps. (1951) **8.10** Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) **9.30** Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – First Practice. **11.15** Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Second Practice. **12.55** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Third Practice. **2.05** EastEnders. **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. With Louis Smith and Lizzie Armistead. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Live International Rugby Union.

8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes a loose barrage balloon off to the woods to secure it to a tree, but an accident sees it float away – taking Captain Mainwaring with it. (R)

8.25 QI XL. Extended edition. Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of keeps.

9.15 Comet of the Century: A Horizon Special. An examination of how the passage of Comet Ison through the solar system could give insights into some of the greatest mysteries of science, including where Earth's water came from.

10.15 DH Lawrence: A Journey Without Shame – A Culture Show Special. Retracing the Alpine journey DH Lawrence made in 1912.

11.15 Film: Bright Star. (2009) Biopic telling the story of 19th-century romantic poet John Keats' three-year relationship with neighbour Fanny Brawne. Starring Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish and Paul Schneider.

1.05 Film: The Big Picture. (2010) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** Dinner Date. (R) **1.35** Doc Martin. (R) **2.35** All Star Mr & Mrs. **3.35** Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.55** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Vic Reeves, Jenni Falconer, Michael Buerk and Francine Lewis.

8.00 The X Factor. The remaining acts celebrate the best of the show, from the most memorable performances to hit singles released by past contestants, and there is live music by Olly Murs.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the latest jungle stories.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Gary Barlow, Dame Edna Everage, Simon Pegg and Michelle Keegan.

11.35 ITV News; Weather. **11.50** Take Me Out. A dance instructor, a footballer, a student and an events manager take part. (R)

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Volleyball. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Heston's 80s Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Natasha Ingham hosts the final dinner party from Lincolnshire. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News. **7.05** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Phil Coulson and his agents pick up the pieces in the aftermath of the events chronicled in Thor: The Dark World, but circumstances threaten to destroy a member of the team. (R)

8.00 Stonehenge: Walking Through History. New series. Tony Robinson embarks on a walk across Wiltshire, from Avebury to Stonehenge, telling the story of the development that occurred in the latter days of the Neolithic era.

9.00 Killing Kennedy. A fact-based account of how US president John F. Kennedy and his killer Lee Harvey Oswald crossed paths on that November afternoon in 1963. Drama, with Rob Lowe and Will Rothhaar.

10.55 Film: Devil. (2010) Horror, starring Chris Messina. **12.35** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **1.20** Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **2.05** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Film: Doctor Who and the Daleks. (1965) Sci-fi adventure, starring Peter Cushing. **11.45** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **12.10** Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic. (R) **1.10** Stobart: Trucks, Trains & Planes. (R) **2.10** Film: An Old Fashioned Christmas. (2010) Period drama sequel, starring Jacqueline Bisset. **3.55** Film: A Christmas Visitor. (2002) Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak and Aaron Ashmore. **5.40** Film: Single Santa Seeks Mrs Claus. (2004) Comedy, with Crystal Bernard. Steve Guttenberg and Dominic Scott.

7.20 Film: Mrs Miracle. (2009) A talented housekeeper helps a widowed father of twin boys to turn his life around and rediscover his love of music. Family drama, starring Doris Roberts and James Van Der Beek.

9.05 5 News Weekend. **9.10** Battle Scared: Soldiering On. Chris Terrill examines how the loss of comradeship can affect ex-service personnel in civilian life and visits a Newcastle-based group helping veterans. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: The Fugitive. (1993) A doctor convicted of his wife's murder goes on the run, hoping to track down the one-armed man he believes is the real killer. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones.

12.35 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Gladiator: The True Story. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Pop's Greatest Dance Craze **9.05** Doctor Who Live: The Afterparty **10.05** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **BBC Four** **7.00** Frozen Planet **8.00** Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Kings of 70s Romance **ITV2** **3.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **4.45** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **7.00** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.30** The Xtra Factor **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Fake Reaction **ITV3** **3.00** Film: Columbo: Double Exposure (1973) **4.30** A Touch of Frost **5.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00** Film: Bird on a Wire (1990) **ITV4** **12.45** Live Snooker. The first Champion of Champions semi-final. **5.15** Police, Camera, Action! **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker. The second Champion of Champions semi-final. **11.15** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **E4** **3.35** Rules of Engagement **4.35** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **11.10** The Inbetweeners **11.45** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **2.50** Cocoon (1985) **5.05** Carry On Behind (1975) **6.55** The Wedding Planner (2001) Romantic comedy, with Heather Graham. **9.00** Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy. **11.00** Berberian Sound Studio (2012)

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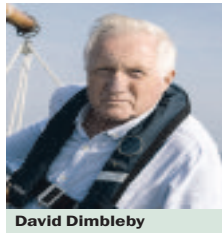
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 24.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



David Dimbleby

Britain and the Sea

BBC1, 9pm
David Dimbleby continues his maritime jaunt around the coastline of Britain, as he steers his yacht towards the south-east coast. It is here throughout the ages that enemy forces have made their first points of attack, and has therefore been instrumental in the nation's defences. Along the way he takes a tour of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship vessel from the Battle of Trafalgar. A far more unlikely piece of history from the Wars comes in the form of a chamber pot, which David learns was a key piece of propaganda in the fight against Napoleon.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix. **6.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.25** Countryfile. John Craven presents archive items on science, including profiles of naturalist Gilbert White and palaeontologist Mary Anning, and how Hollywood can help breed the perfect pig. **7.20** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and operatic pop quartet II Divo perform. **8.00** The Paradise. Denise sets up a meeting with a potential new investor, only for her work to be undermined. Katherine confides in Moray - unaware Tom has been watching their intimacy grow. **9.00** Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby learns about invasion and defence on the south-east coast, taking a tour of HMS Victory and revealing how a chamber pot helped in the battle against Napoleon. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Cardiff City v Manchester United and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.25** Film: Soul Men. (2008) Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Bernie Mac. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Morning Glory. (1933) **7.20** Film: Murder on a Honeymoon. (1935) **8.35** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **11.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. **1.30** Live International Rugby Union. **4.00** Rugby League World Cup. **4.45** Coast. (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) Adventure, starring Jackie Chan. **7.00** Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix - Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the concluding round of the season at Interlagos, where the drivers looked to end the campaign in style. **8.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels through Bohemia and Bavaria, test driving a state-of-the-art passenger train in Pilsen and sampling the spa waters of Mariánské Lázně. **9.00** Morecambe and Wise: The Whole Story. Part one of two. Dean Lennox Kelly narrates a documentary charting the comedy duo's rise to stardom, beginning with a look at the early years of their act. **10.30** Hebburn. Pauline is bullied at work by a fellow estate agent. (R) **11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Jack Whitehall hosts, with Johnny Borrell, Aston Merrygold, Katy B and Alex Brooker. (R) **11.30** Film: The Daisy Chain. (2008) Horror, starring Samantha Morton, Steven Mackintosh, Mahari Anderson and David Bradley. **12.55** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Inside the National Trust. **1.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **4.05** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **5.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.35** Prize Island. **6.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Surprise Surprise. Diversity and Roberto Martinez take part. **8.00** The X Factor Results. The remaining contestants collaborate with JLS. One Direction perform their new single Story of My Life and there is also music by Mary J Blige, Dermot O'Leary hosts. **9.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The surprises keep coming for the campers as they spend another day coping with the horrors of the jungle, and one of them has to take part in a live Bush Tucker Trial. **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.45** Oil! Their Rockers. A pensioner's wheelchair is clamped. (R) **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest top-flight fixtures. **12.15** The Store. Home shopping. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Newsnight. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Gadget Man. (R) **3.25** Film: Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. (1991) **5.35** Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) **7.25** Channel 4 News. **7.55** The Political Slot. Election candidate for Hampstead and Kilburn Maajid Nawaz tours the constituency. **8.00** Finding Babylon's Hanging Garden - Secret History. Oxford academic Stephanie Dallas tries to solve the mystery of the wonder of the ancient world, which she believes belonged to another time and was built at a different location. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie and Quinn pursue a key suspect, Saul deals with a political backlash, the strain of the job takes its toll on Fara, and the Brodys receive startling news. **10.00** Was It Something I Said? With Vic Reeves and Josh Widdicombe. Last in the series. **10.30** Toast of London. Steven gets into trouble with Michael Ball. Last in the series. **10.55** Fresh Meat. Vod tries to break up with Javier. (R) **11.50** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. With Micky Flanagan, Sheridan Smith and some of the Made in Chelsea cast. (R) **12.50** American Football Live. **4.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerets. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. **10.00** Film: Daleks' Invasion Earth: 2150 AD. (1966) **11.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35** Film: A Boyfriend for Christmas. (2004) **3.25** Film: Noel. (2004) **5.15** Film: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) **6.55** Film: Entrapment. (1999) An elusive art thief is pursued by an insurance agent, who teams up with him to plot the robbery of a lifetime. Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Valkyrie. (2008) Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Cruise. **12.15** 7 Days That Made the Führer. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **8.20** Doctor Who Live **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** American Dad! **11.40** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **BBC Four**
7.00 Amazon **8.00** The Man Who Discovered Egypt **9.00** Madness in the Desert: Paris to Dakar Rally **10.00** The RTS Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture 2013 **10.45** Nina Conti - A Ventriloquist's Story: Her Master's Voice **11.45** John Denver: Country Boy **ITV2**
3.55 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **11.30** Tricked: Favourite Tricks **ITV3**
2.35 A Touch of Frost **4.35** Inspector Morse **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Blue Murder **ITV4**
12.45 Live Snooker **5.15** Police, Camera, Action! **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker **10.00** Film: Village of the Damned (1995) **E4**
3.45 How I Met Your Mother **5.45** Rules of Engagement **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.45** Film: Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.00** RuDe Tube: Ultimate Stunts **11.30** The Interveners **11.55** Drifters **Film4**
3.10 Akeelah and the Bee (2006) **5.20** The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **7.00** Leap Year (2010) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.15** I Am Breathing (2013)

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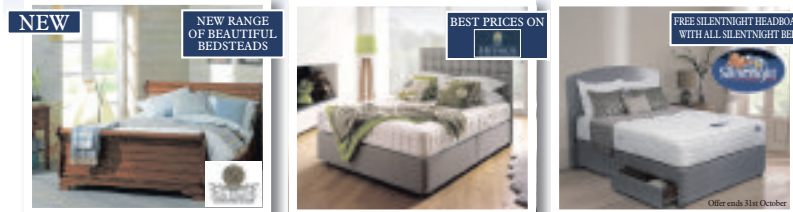
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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Gingerbread Man, Channel 5, 11.40pm

A lawyer is shocked to learn of his girlfriend's traumatic upbringing and launches a personal crusade to see her violent, abusive father brought to justice. He succeeds in having him committed to an asylum – little suspecting he is setting the scene for a deadly confrontation. Robert Altman's legal thriller based on John Grisham's novel, starring Kenneth Branagh, Embeth Davidtz, Robert Downey Jr, Robert Duvall, Famke Janssen and Daryl Hannah. (1998)

TUESDAY

When a Man Loves a Woman, BBC1, 11.35pm

A couple's outwardly idyllic marriage is close to disintegrating through the wife's alcoholism, prompting her husband to resort to desperate measures to make her give up drinking for their children's sake. However, he is also forced to face up to the part he played in allowing her life to go off the rails. Drama, with Andy Garcia, Meg Ryan, Lauren Tom, Ellen Burstyn, Tina Majorino and Mae Whitman. (1994)

WEDNESDAY

Swordfish, Channel 5, 10.30pm

A computer hacker recently released from prison is recruited by a mysterious criminal to help him embezzle millions of dollars. The plot draws him into the world of international espionage as he discovers his new employer is a former US anti-terrorist operative planning to steal from his old government paymasters. Thriller, starring John Travolta, Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Don Cheadle and Vinnie Jones. (2001)



Troy, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

Love at the Parade, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The organiser of Chicago's Thanksgiving parade is furious when a consultant is brought in to take charge of the event's finances, thinking he is only interested in profit. But when she suffers an unexpected crisis, she finds support in her previously unwanted colleague, and begins to fall for him. Romantic drama, with Autumn Reeser and Antonio Cupo. (2012)

FRIDAY

Troy, Channel 5, 9pm

A Trojan prince elopes with the king of Sparta's wife, sparking a bitter and bloody war between a mighty alliance of Greek kings and the city of Troy, whose champion engages in intense personal conflict with the enemy's most formidable warrior. Wolfgang Petersen's adventure, inspired by Homer's epic poem The Iliad, with Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Brian Cox, Sean Bean, Peter O'Toole and Diane Kruger. (2004)

Pick of the Week

The Tardis welcomes back a former Tennant

It's here at last, the moment all Doctor Who fans have been waiting for... At 5.15pm on November 23, 1963, a TV legend was born, but in rather inauspicious circumstances.

The broadcast took place a day after the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, and as a result, nobody was really paying that much attention to the arrival on British screens of a white-haired old gent who claimed he could travel through space and time in a police box that was bigger on the inside than it was on the outside.

But, just a few weeks later, it was regarded as a phenomenon thanks to the debut appearance of the Daleks – and it's been much-loved by millions ever since.

Now the sci-fi classic is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and current showrunner Steven Moffat is as excited as anybody about this special episode, which will also be broadcast and shown in cinemas in 3D.

"Since I was a little boy, the idea of writing a Doctor Who story at all was

remarkable enough to me," he reveals. "But writing the 50th special was exciting and terrifying – everything that showbiz should be."

"I didn't want this to just be a celebration of 50 years of the past. I wanted it to be a celebration of the mythology and legend of the Doctor and all that entailed."

"This should be the first step on the next journey, guaranteeing the 100th anniversary. The story focuses on the most important thing that ever happened to the Doctor. We very rarely do that in Doctor Who as it's usually about the people the Doctor meets or the companions that travel with him. This time it's different."

How different we're just not sure – Moffat is frankly brilliant at keeping the plots of Who stories top secret, even if it means telling a few little white lies along the way.

What we do know is that David Tennant is returning to the Tardis alongside Matt Smith, and they'll be joined by John Hurt as an incarnation of the Time Lord that the Doctor himself would rather forget.

Billie Piper is also back as Rose Tyler, and those who love Tom Baker's era will be thrilled at an appearance by the Zygons, shape-shifting aliens who haven't been seen since 1976.

"With John Hurt we have serious acting royalty and that was the intent of John's character," explains Moffat. "John is one of the most distinguished actors this country has produced and has now become part of Doctor Who mythology."

"The Zygons, without question, are a design classic. They are superb – brilliant from the voice, to the appearance. Essentially, we've resurrected exactly the same Zygon as Tom Baker fought back. They are beautiful, and it'll show that the special looks forward to the future of Doctor Who and also celebrates the legend."

We're guessing a few more people will be tuning in to this episode than did so in 1963 – and anybody who misses it will feel as alien as a Cyberman when it comes to Monday morning's school and work discussions!



Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor, Saturday, BBC1, 7.50pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Ripper Street

BBC1, 9pm

Given the calibre of cast, crew, and the international appeal, there's perhaps little wonder this series has found favour worldwide. The latest offering involves the murder of Telegraph Boy Otto Roberts. When he is found strangled, Detective Inspector Edmund Reid and his fellow crime busters attempt to expose a vice racket run from the offices of the GPO. The case takes Reid to the heart of Barings Bank, one of the city's most revered financial organisations. Before long the team uncovers blackmail, impending economic disaster and crooked financial dealings. With a great cast including Matthew Macfadyen, Jerome Flynn and Adam Rothenberg, as well as some superb attention to detail, this is a welcome change from the usual cops and robbers dramas.

The Choir: Sing While You Work

BBC2, 9pm

You've got to hand it to choirmaster Gareth Malone – his determination cannot be rivalled. However, he's going to need more than determination (and his signature bow tie) tonight, as he tackles what could be his biggest challenge yet. He's hoping to turn staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue into an all-singing, all-beaming group of folk ready to take on his other choir. But he's got his work cut out. At audition stage, the alarm is raised and bells and blue lights bring an abrupt halt to proceedings, as the station gets to work. Once rehearsals get under way, Gareth's next task is to give the back-room staff the confidence to stand tall and sing proud.

TUESDAY

Last Tango in Halifax

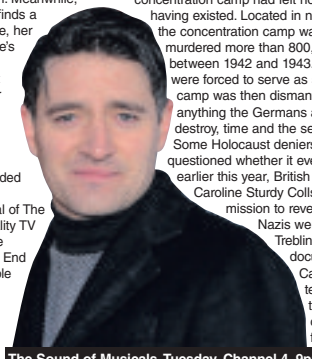
BBC1, 9pm

A wedding day should be the happiest time of your life, preferably surrounded by loved ones, not by a butcher who'd rather be somewhere else and an indifferent, on-duty policeman. And when Alan (Derek Jacobi) considers paying the witnesses £20 he manages to dampen some of the romance. Little wonder his bride Celia (Anne Reid) is a little miffed. The service is eventually interrupted by Gillian (a scene-stealing Nicola Walker), who has a go at her dad for being so selfish. Meanwhile, as Caroline (Sarah Lancashire) finds a way to buy John out of the house, her relationship is threatened by Kate's desire for a baby. Sally Wainwright's brilliant, bittersweet comedy also stars Tony Gardner and Nina Sosanya.

The Sound of Musicals

Channel 4, 9pm

When Andrew Lloyd Webber needed to solve a problem like finding an actress to play Maria in his revival of The Sound of Music, he turned to reality TV for help. But when it comes to the tricky business of casting a West End musical, not every producer is able to hand the decision over to the public. Take Kenny Wax for example – he struck lucky when putting on his staging of Top Hat, and recruited actor Tom



The Sound of Musicals, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

Chambers, a former Strictly Come Dancing champion and Casualty star who could tap, sing and already had an army of fans. But as Chambers approaches the end of his contract, Wax needs to find another 'triple threat' to take over the role, a search that ultimately takes him to Broadway.

WEDNESDAY

Treblinka: Inside Hitler's Secret Death Camp

Channel 5, 9pm

It was a place of almost unimaginable horror, yet for many years, it seemed as if the Treblinka concentration camp had left no trace of its ever having existed. Located in north east Poland, the concentration camp was where the Nazis murdered more than 800,000 people between 1942 and 1943. Many more were forced to serve as slave labour. The camp was then dismantled in 1943, and anything the Germans authorities didn't destroy, time and the seasons concealed. Some Holocaust deniers have even questioned whether it ever existed at all. But earlier this year, British archaeologist Caroline Sturdy Colls embarked on a mission to reveal exactly what the Nazis were trying to hide at Treblinka. This documentary follows Caroline and her team as they work on the first comprehensive forensic investigation of the site.

THURSDAY

Legacy

BBC2, 9pm

For anyone too young to remember the 1970s, it wasn't just a time of flares, disco and Space Hoppers. In 1974, Britain was also in the middle of a Cold War, and contending with the three-day week, industrial strife and petrol rationing – and it's against this background that this thriller plays out. Charlie Cox heads the cast as Charles Thoroughgood, a trainee spy in M16, who is under pressure to recruit his old university friend and Russian diplomat Viktor Koslov (Andrew Scott). However, it's not going to be as easy as going for a couple of drinks and reminiscing about the good old days. Viktor has his own agenda, as well as a bit of explosive inside information about the spy's family.

FRIDAY

Kangaroo Dundee

BBC2, 8.30pm

All eyes are focused Down Under at the moment thanks to the cricket and Celebrity shenanigans, but there's more to Aussie blokes than just the thwack of leather on willow, as this new documentary series proves. Following on from a two-part show earlier in the year as part of the Natural World strand, Kangaroo Dundee catches up with Chris 'Brolga' Barnes, the Outback hero who's been devoting his life to rescuing and raising orphaned kangaroos in Australia's Northern Territory. As the cameras start rolling again, Brolga has just taken in two new joys by the name of Rex and Ruby, and is raising them using a pillowcase as a pouch.

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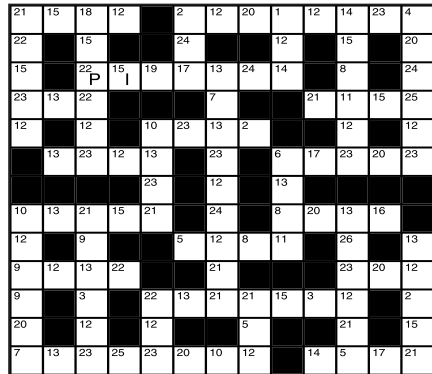
Puzzler

Brain Gym

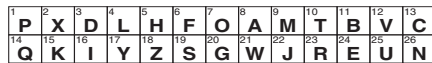
No.248

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

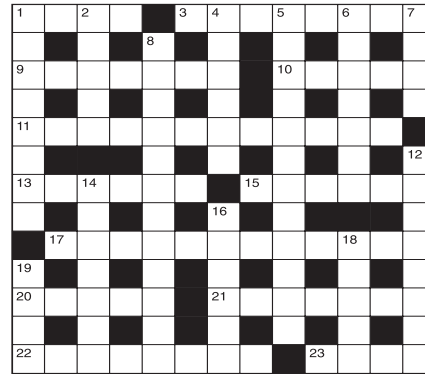
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Poor Iris, to droop like this! (4)
3. In a convent it gives preferential treatment (8)
9. Saying in the page rim, perhaps (7)
10. The thank you letter one gets from Greece (5)
11. Suckers will always buy them! (6,6)
13. Slightly sensitive? (6)
15. I am unfortunately having to return the sausage (6)
17. Indicate the spot for a country meeting (5-2-5)
20. Verdi's energy (5)
21. Newspaper piece could make it clear (7)
22. They sit outside the courts to give their decisions (8)
23. Naturally, they lack refinement (4)

Down

1. Feel a bit upset by a trifling annoyance (8)
2. Defence of the absent (5)
4. Misers may become careless (6)
5. Bound to start a fight? (2,3,7)
6. You can't do a thing with it! (7)
7. Period from very early times (4)
8. Apparently they don't require a penny for their thoughts (4,8)
12. Upright but lacking energy (8)
14. An ideal description (7)
16. Faster form of attack (6)
18. Fall into part of the main current (5)
19. A much revered figure (4)



Quick Clues:

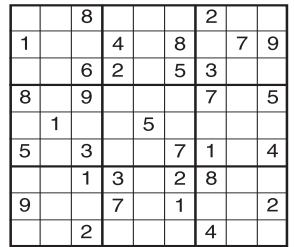
Across

1. Pass (2,2)
3. Wasteful (8)
9. Send away (7)
10. Well up (5)
11. After death (12)
13. Make attractive (6)
15. Get away (6)
17. Despicable (12)
20. The sea (5)
21. Dryness (7)
22. More stable (8)
23. Remain (4)

Down

1. Good journey! (8)
2. Foundation (5)
4. Summary (6)
5. Essay (12)
6. Biggest ape (7)
7. Sediment (4)
8. Depressed (12)
12. Of late (8)
14. See (7)
16. Smear (6)
18. Wide bay (5)
19. Fling (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	3	4	8	1	5	2	9
2	1	4	9	3	5	6	8	7
8	5	9	7	6	2	3	1	4
6	2	5	3	4	7	8	9	1
1	9	7	8	5	6	2	4	3
4	3	8	2	1	9	7	6	5
5	4	2	6	9	3	1	7	8
3	8	6	1	7	4	9	5	2
9	7	1	5	2	8	4	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Literal; 7 Strum; 9 Style; 10 Turn off; 12 Switchback; 14 Taking sides; 18 Respond; 19 Rifle; 21 Snore; 22 Sailing. Down: 1 Plety; 2 Yellow; 3 Tap; 4 Sting; 5 Gunfire; 8 Fuchsia; 11 Staging; 13 Make one; 15 Impart; 16 Evilly; 17 Plant; 20 Pas. QUICK - Across: 6 Defence; 7 Bogus; 9 Tepid; 10 Nursery; 12 Reduce speed; 14 Papier-mache; 18 Asinine; 19 Still; 21 Azure; 22 Adverse. Down: 1 Lever; 2 Revisé; 3 Act; 4 Gossip; 5 Quarrel; 8 Funeral; 11 Current; 13 Capsize; 15 Ignore; 16 Hatred; 17 Close; 20 Odd.



Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing"
Simon B

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Property

**YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING**

Semi-detached house is tucked away in a close

TAYLORS of Brierley Hill is marketing this property in Vicarage Close, Brierley Hill which is situated in a great position, tucked away in a quiet and now established close.

This well-appointed home is priced £129,950.

The property has a hall area, thoughtfully planned kitchen, pleasant sitting room, conservatory, two bedrooms and bathroom.

Outside there is a driveway and enclosed rear garden.

Call the agent on 01384 265265 to arrange a viewing or for further details.



Building of homes brings improved facilities for town

LEADING housebuilder Taylor Wimpey West Midlands is investing more than £185,000 in local community facilities as part of a major new homes development which is now taking shape in Kingswinford.

Taylor Wimpey's Himley View is delivering high-quality homes plus a host of amenities to the community – including financial contributions for the local area totalling £186,295.

The money being pledged by Taylor Wimpey in association with the development includes nearly £100,000 for local transport infrastructure improvements, £25,000 for highway improvements and more than £60,000 towards library facilities in the area.

In addition, 65 of the 334 new homes to be constructed on the overall development will be designated as affordable housing.

Elaine Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Every single new home we build at Taylor Wimpey is part of a community, and we are committed to ensuring this exciting new development in Kingswinford offers much more than just high-quality properties for local people. Our investment of more than



£185,000 will help to improve public facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of the whole community, ensuring that this sustainable new homes development will both complement and enhance the local area."

The latest phase of the Himley View development is now on sale, offering a range of two, three, four and five-bedroom homes.

Himley View benefits from a convenient location close to the amenities of Kingswinford and Gornal Wood, and lies just a short distance from the wide range of facilities in the thriving town of Dudley, and the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Visit

To find out more about the new homes at Himley View, property-seekers can visit the sales and marketing suite, located off Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 7HU, and is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

The sales executive can also be contacted on 01384 880825.

Further information about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 0121 703 3400 or by visiting www.taylorwimpey.co.uk



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Property Auction



**48 CARNEGIE AVENUE,
TIPTON**

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Thursday 5th December 2013

To be held at... **Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am**

67 Lots to include:



**69 DARTMOUTH ROAD,
CANNOCK**

<p>Lot No. Address</p> <p>1 138 COLLIS STREET, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY9 4EE</p> <p>2 25 ERNEST ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 7DP</p> <p>3 17 GREENHALL ROAD, HARTSHAM, BRIDGEMAN B21 8DX</p> <p>4 929 CLEMENTS ROAD, WOLLEY, BRIDGEMAN B25 8TT</p> <p>5 65 GALTON ROAD, SNEATHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5AT</p> <p>6 125 GRESHAM STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B71 1NS</p> <p>7 45 HALLSOWEN ROAD, WESTCHESTER, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 8DD</p> <p>8 115 PROBY ROAD, HILL GREEN, BRIDGEMAN B29 8TG</p> <p>9 84 WATFORD ROAD, SPINNEY, BRIDGEMAN B11 1HP</p> <p>10 808 STAFFORD ROAD, HUNTINGTON, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE WS12 0NU</p> <p>11 LAND NORTH SIDE OF SPINNEY STREET, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDLANDS WV13 1EJ</p> <p>12 5 SHUTT ROAD, WIGGLES, BRIDGEMAN B15 8EZ</p> <p>13 15 JACOBY PLACE, PROBY ROAD, EDGBASTON, BRIDGEMAN B5 7UN</p> <p>14 THE LEOPARD, JERRYS LANE, BRIDGEMAN B22 9AX</p> <p>15 UNIT 3 WOODS LANE, BRIDGEMAN, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 2DT</p> <p>16 118 FORTY STREET, BRIDGEMAN, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 9HD</p> <p>17 147-149 CAPE HILL, SNEATHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4SH</p> <p>18 50/50A TAVEN, 407 PARK ROAD, KIDDERLEY, BRIDGEMAN B18 5SR</p> <p>19 85 SHIPLEY ROAD, KIDDERLEY, BRIDGEMAN B27 7NA</p> <p>20 48 CARNEGIE AVENUE, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS DY4 8SX</p> <p>21 50 CARNEGIE AVENUE, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS DY4 8SX</p> <p>22 75 HOLECHURCH ROAD, HARTSHAM, BRIDGEMAN B21 8LG</p> <p>23 87-89 NINERD ROAD, BRIDGEMAN B21 8DX</p> <p>24 1 EDGECOMBE ROAD, HILL GREEN, BRIDGEMAN B29 8AV</p> <p>25 216 LINDEN ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BRIDGEMAN B10 0HF</p> <p>26 85 SUMMERS ROAD, KIDDERLEY, DY5, CONVENTRY CV3 8LS</p> <p>27 1 BRIMLEY STREET, STAFFORDSHIRE ON SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA</p> <p>28 69 DARTMOUTH ROAD, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE WS12 0NU</p> <p>29 LOCK UP GARAGES 80-78-76A ALCESTER ROAD SOUTH, BRIDGEMAN B14 5EZ</p> <p>30 3 BRIMLEY STREET, STAFFORDSHIRE ON SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA</p> <p>31 252 ABBEY STREET, DERRY DZ2 5SW</p> <p>32 102 WESTING STREET, STAFFORDSHIRE ON SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8AU</p> <p>33 120-122 WATFORD ROAD, WIGGLES, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2DQ</p>	<p>Tenure Guide Price</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £26,000 - £29,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £95,000 - £99,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £99,000 - £99,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £20,000 - £25,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £100,000 - £120,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £98,000 - £94,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £110,000 - £120,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £92,000 - £98,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £140,000 - £150,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £15,000 - £20,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Land £45,000 - £55,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £35,000 - £36,000</p> <p>Vacant Residential £95,000 - £110,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £170,000 - £190,000 - 14T</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £95,000 - £100,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £75,000 - £79,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £350,000 - £375,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £90,000 - £95,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £140,000 - £150,000</p> <p>Leasehold Residential Investment £22,000 - £26,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £160,000 - £200,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £90,000 - £99,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £110,000 - £116,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £75,000 - £79,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £45,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £180,000 - £200,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £95,000 - £99,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £25,000 - £29,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £170,000 - £200,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Commercial £190,000 - £190,000</p> <p>Freehold/Vacant Residential £195,000 - £195,000</p>	<p>54 THE KIMBORSE HOTEL, 11/11 COMMERCIAL ROAD, ALCESTER CV3 2DY</p> <p>55 15 GLENOWEN AVENUE, CONVENTRY CV3 8BS</p> <p>56 25 HEWLE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 8LR</p> <p>57 LAND ADJ 75 FLORENCE ROAD, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS</p> <p>58 THE HOP POLE HOTEL, 9 MARKET SQUARE, BROMWICH, HEREFORDSHIRE HR7 4BP</p> <p>59 131 LORRELL STREET, WALSALL WS1 1ST</p> <p>60 FORMER WILLENHALL LOCKS, STONING LANE, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDLANDS WV13 1LF</p> <p>61 FORMER WILLENHALL LOCKS, STONING LANE, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDLANDS WV13 1LF</p> <p>62 11 LOCK UP GARAGES, COLINA CLOSE, CONVENTRY CV3 3ES</p> <p>63 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3HS</p> <p>64 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3HS</p> <p>65 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFS B77 3HS</p> <p>66 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3HS</p> <p>67 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3HS</p> <p>68 46/47 TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFS B77 3HS</p> <p>69 FOR 10 BLACKMORE LANE, BROMSGHARE, WORCESTERSHIRE B60 1AB</p> <p>70 FOR 127 ADAMS HILL, BARTLEY GREEN, BRIDGEMAN B22 9PB</p> <p>71 FOR 329 ADAMS HILL, BARTLEY GREEN, BRIDGEMAN B22 9PB</p> <p>72 26 61 & 67 BRIN MORGUE, ALTHEA, PONTFRANK, WEST GLAMORGAN S40</p> <p>73 15 15 & 17 BRIN MORGUE, ALTHEA, PONTFRANK, WEST GLAMORGAN S40</p> <p>74 12 & 14 BURNS CLOSE, CALDWY, GWENT S40</p> <p>75 FOR 93A UNION ROAD, SHIPLEY, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B90 3BZ</p> <p>76 LAND ADJ 170 MAIN LANE, BRIDGEMAN B15 8EZ</p> <p>77 74 WALKERS HEATH ROAD, BRIDGEMAN B29 8AW</p> <p>78 152 - 154 CAPE HILL, SNEATHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4PH</p> <p>79 120 THE GREEN, WESTBURY, WEST MIDLANDS WS10 1LP</p> <p>80 94 WATFORD ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BRIDGEMAN B10 0HF</p> <p>81 DOCTORS SURGERY, VICARAGE ROAD, COLURB, WEST MIDLANDS B60 8HL</p> <p>82 72 - 74 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL WS2 8DP</p> <p>83 15 ST CLARENS ROAD, FOLEHAM, CONVENTRY CV3 6BY</p> <p>84 47 SEVERN ROAD, BLACKHALL, WALSALL WS11 2U</p> <p>85 40 ALCESTER COTTAGES, ALCESTER LANE, ALCESTER, BRIDGEMAN B79 0DU</p> <p>86 25 ARTHUR STREET, REDDIT, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 1LD</p> <p>87 121 123 PEARL ROAD, BRIDGEMAN B21 4DU</p>
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ROMSLEY, Waverley Crescent £850 pcm - Fees
Exceptionally presented & extended 3 bedroom home in a quiet cul-de-sac in the popular village of Romsley. Large Living Room with elegant fire surround featuring a real working fire. Modern fitted kitchen with integral appliances, dining room, study/bedroom 4, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower over 'P' shaped bath. Private rear garden and parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: E



NEW
HALESOWEN, Springfield Drive £695 pcm - Fees
With easy access to both Halesowen and Blackheath Town Centre and the M5. This newly carpeted 3 bed semi detached house features 2 good size reception rooms, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, garage with driveway parking, front & rear gardens. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, Waxland Road £675 pcm - Fees
Located in the centre of Halesowen, is this lovely unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: gas central heating, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, further separate wc, front & rear gardens, garage and driveway parking, within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Lydiate Road £650 pcm - Fees
Located in the popular area of Howley Grange, this semi-detached house is ideal for Howley Grange Primary School, briefly featuring 3 bedrooms, small kitchen, separate utility area, 2 reception rooms, shower room, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway and garage, small rear garden. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS Pear Tree Drive £650 pcm - Fees
Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5. This modern, unfurnished detached house comprises of 1 reception room, fitted dining/kitchen, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, 3 bedrooms, house bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite, garage and driveway parking, gardens. EPC: C



NEW
HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £575 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished and in the centre of Halesowen. We have 2 apartments available and both feature light and airy lounges with large bay windows, 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen with cooker, 2 bathrooms with showers and a utility room. A must see property to appreciate the spacious accommodation. EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close £575 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. This lovely apartment is on the ground floor and features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom, large open plan lounge/kitchen with integrated appliances, 1 allocated parking space. Available 01/12/13. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive £575 pcm - Fees
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A well presented semi detached home briefly featuring 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, spacious lounge, dining room, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens. Unfurnished. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Harcourt Road £550 pcm - Fees
Unfurnished 3 bedroom mid-terraced house within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and local shops. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, large rear garden and off road parking for 2 vehicles. Gas central heating, double glazed throughout. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



OLDSWINFORD Hall Street £550 pcm - Fees
A quaint mid-terraced house, close to local shops and transport links, comprising of 1 double bedroom, 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with white goods, downstairs bathroom with shower, spacious lounge, small rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North £540 pcm - Fees
Extremely well presented and surprisingly large end terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted diner/kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, in beautiful court yard garden and gated driveway. EPC: E



WORDSWLEY Cooknell Drive £525 pcm - Fees
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



NEW
STOURBRIDGE, Holly Grove £525 pcm - Fees
A superbly presented 3 bedroom 5 storey terraced town house situated in a popular cul de sac location within Stourbridge Old Quarter. This property benefits from a large hallway with downstairs utility and w.c. A spacious lounge with large separate fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms and house bathroom, electric storage heating. Private rear garden, driveway to front and garage. Available now. EPC: E



OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane £515 pcm - Fees
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford, for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £495 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Banners Street £495 pcm - Fees
A mid terrace property which has been refurbished comprises of 2 double bedrooms, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 reception rooms, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, large tiered garden with decking area, on road parking. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Hall Street £475 pcm - Fees
Located in the sought after area of Oldswinford. A quaint mid-terraced house, close to local shops and transport links featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, cosy front lounge, rear sitting room, large rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: E



NETHERTON Round Street £475 pcm - Fees
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. Unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £450 pcm - Fees
An immaculately presented ground floor 1 bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan living room/modern fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, bathroom with shower over bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. Available now. EPC: C



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Reddall Hill Road £425 pcm - Fees
Modernised to a high standard is this large gas central heated 2 bedroom modernised flat. With your own private entrance leading to a lovely lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, 1 with fitted wardrobes. Lovely shower room. Allocated parking for 1 car. Available immediately. EPC: D



DUDDLEY, Southgate Way £399 pcm - Fees
A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished top floor apartment featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available now. EPC: B

Property

Improved detached with garage priced £179,950



ON the popular Chawn Park development, this property in Thickenall Drive, Stourbridge is well presented and has been improved.

It is for sale through Taylors, priced at £179,950.

A three-bedroom detached house with gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, attractive sitting room, combined dining room and kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, a bathroom, block paved drive, detached garage and an enclosed rear garden.

For further information contact Taylors on 01384 592167 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



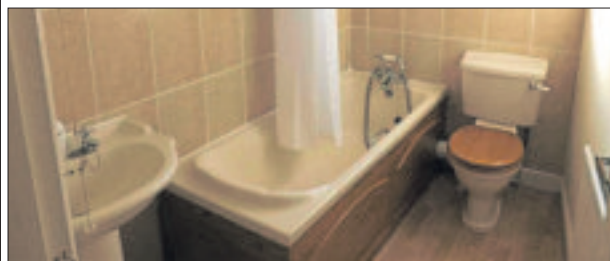
Traditional two-bed terrace located in the heart of town

THIS two-bedroomed terraced house in Attwood Street, Halesowen, lies in the heart of town, being convenient for many local amenities.

It is for sale through Dixons with offers in the region of £100,000 being invited.

The modern and stylish interior includes a lounge, kitchen, breakfast room with access to the rear, bathroom, two bedrooms, a lobby and a rear garden.

For further information contact Dixons on 0121 468 0031 or go online and visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk



Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Plenty of flexibility in this mini MPV

By David Banner

LET'S face facts. Much as Vauxhall have tried to convince us to the contrary, mini-MPVs in general and the Zafira in particular are not about tyre-shredding power and performance.

They're bought for other reasons such as practicality, safety and ease of ownership.

This is why for most people, the 1.6-litre entry-level model is, in fact, a better car than the 240bhp ripsnorting Zafira VXR.

Less, in this instance, is most definitely more.

You probably won't care that it takes 13.9 seconds to get to 60mph and that the top speed of 109mph isn't going to make you the Obergruppenführer of the autobahn.

No, what's more germane is the almost diesel-like fuel consumption figure of 39.2mpg and a CO₂ emissions figure of just 172g/km.

The engine is a benign unit that revs sweetly and only really feels its capacity when you've loaded the vehicle to capacity or are attempting to set a stiff target time for Lance Armstrong on a Category III climb.

Steering feel has improved noticeably with the Zafira in recent times and other aspects such as the gearchange have been finessed.



This Zafira is six inches longer and 1.5 inches wider than the previous



For the larger family the Vauxhall Zafira is close to perfect

Ride quality and body control have improved dramatically from the first generation model, thanks in no small part to a completely redesigned suspension system.

The torsion beam rear axle also helps packaging, being especially compact, and allowing for a flat floor with no suspension intrusion. The one thing you can never have enough of in an MPV-style vehicle is space and sure enough, the tale of the tape reveals that the Zafira has succumbed, if not to middle age spread, then at least to a little loosening of the belt.

This is perhaps understandable given the fact that with utility vehicles like the Meriva mopping up sales in the supermini-MPV class and no recognised full-sized MPV contender, there was a vacuum into which the Zafira would be drawn. Six inches longer, 1.5 inches wider and a shade taller than the first generation

car, the current Zafira retains the seven-seat configuration, with a middle bench seat offering three berths and two seats in the back that also fold flat into the floor.

What has changed is the amount of legroom on offer to the occupants. Whereas the first generation car would have been hideously cramped with all seven seats in use, the latest model offers a little more breathing space. It's still not ideally suited to a rugby sevens team and their kit, but for the larger family, it's close to perfect. As before, the seating system is so versatile that the Zafira can be configured in two, three, four, five, six or seven seat guises in a matter of seconds.

Most buyers will run in five-seat format, and in this mode the Vauxhall can cope with 620-litres of luggage* fully 20 more than the old car. Depending on the trim level, the Zafira can also

boast up to 30 storage compartments.

The 'Flex Organiser' luggage bay stowage system that has proved a success with Astra Estate buyers is also available on the Zafira. Don't believe the hype that the Flex7 system is instantly intuitive. Some reference to the manual and a certain degree of practice is required before you can say you've mastered the seating system.

It is to the Astra that the Zafira owes many of its exterior design cues. Whereas the first generation Zafira was clearly related to the Astra Mk IV, the current model looks for all the world like a MkV Astra Estate that's been attached to a garage air line. A particularly interesting feature is the optional panorama roof. With four large glass panels, this system offers passengers a light, airy atmosphere in the back, while tinted glass and a powered

Bumper to bumper

Car: Vauxhall Zafira 1.6

Price: £18,570 for the Exclusiv 1.6i 16v VVT 5dr. £22,325 for the Design 1.6i 16v VVT 5dr

Performance: 0-60 mph 12.5; max speed 115

Emissions: Co₂ (g/km) 157

Fuel economy: Combined mpg 42.2

Insurance group: 12 for the Exclusiv 1.6i 16v VVT 5dr. 15 for the Design 1.6i 16v VVT 5dr

shade protect against dazzle. A centre console running the length of the ceiling has a number of overhead compartments.

Built in a £300 million state-of-the-art facility in Bochum, Germany, the latest Zafira is built to a zero defect principle and the results are apparent inside the cabin.

Although it doesn't feel quite as bulletproof as the Astra inside, it's still a very impressive effort. The 1.6-litre versions of the Zafira are probably pipped by the diesel models as the best buy in the range, but if funds won't permit you to stretch to one of the CDTi engines, the 1.6-litre petrol is no sorry substitute.

It's a tough and willing powerplant wrapped in one of the best mini-MPVs money can buy.

Vauxhall hit the mother lode with the last Zafira and look set to do so again with this latest version.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO₂ emissions 157g/km.

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Motoring



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Local shoppers feel happy with Citroën

EVERYTHING was coming up roses recently, when a team working on behalf of All Electric in Kidderminster appeared at various locations throughout the town.

Emerging from two gleaming Citroën DS models recently, the team distributed fresh red roses and sticks of

rock to passing pedestrians to raise a few smiles, and help generate awareness of the Citroën range of vehicles, including the eagerly awaited DS3 Cabriolet.

Lloyd James at All Electric Kidderminster said: "It always feels blooming good to do something nice for people 'just because'."

"Our team had great fun meeting

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Trax Range: Urban 34.4 (8.2) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6) – 70.6 (4.0), Combined 43.4 (6.5) – 62.7 (4.5) CO₂ emissions 153 – 120g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

Motoring

Ibiza rocks! Supermini fine-tuned to perfection

By Paul Naylor

THE revised version of SEAT's fourth generation Ibiza supermini offers small car buyers a smarter set of more eco-conscious hi-tech talents.

It'll need them if it's to distance itself from its Volkswagen and Skoda design stablemates and continue as a credible alternative in this tightly fought segment.

'Enjoyment' – it's a rather apt description of what Spanish maker SEAT sets out to create when it brings us a new car. Something beautifully engineered: but with a bit of extra Latin sparkle. Something like this, the Iberian brand's much improved fourth generation Ibiza supermini.

The "Sociedad Espanola de Automoviles de Turismo" or SEAT as we better know it is well used to injecting a little life into its cars.

Only when Volkswagen took control of the brand in 1986 though, did its appeal start to spread to the rest of Europe, with the Ibiza supermini the sales spearhead and this MK4 model, launched in 2008, generally acknowledged as the company's most competitive proposition yet.

A few years on though and with toughening small car competition, it was clear that a bit of a re-think might be needed to keep this car current.

Perhaps a sharper look, a bit of extra running cost efficiency and an added touch of hi-tech would do the trick? All were duly delivered by this improved model, launched in the Spring of 2012. Let's check it out.

Go for a model with more than 100bhp and it'll also come with a clever XDS electronic differential lock which will help you get the power down more quickly out of tight corners, dialing out understeer and firing you from bend to bend.

All TSI petrol models get this treatment, these including my favourite variant, the 105PS 1.2-litre unit which makes 60 in 9.8 seconds on the way to nearly 120mph, yet still returns a highly impressive set of running cost figures.

You can order it with a super-smooth DSG automatic gearbox "but you don't have to.

Annoyingly, that's not the case if you go for the pokier 150 or 180PS supercharged and turbocharged 1.4TSI engine found in the sporty but strangely auto-only FR and Cupra hot hatch models.

Other pokey XDS-equipped Ibizas include the 105PS 1.6-litre diesel and my pick as the sportiest car in the range, the desirable 143PS 2.0 TDI FR model which makes 60 in just 8.2s on the way to 130mph.

Performance

That's the fast stuff dealt with, but here I've chosen a more realistic Ibiza variant to drive, the 12v 70PS 1.2-litre petrol model.

Though I've tried for a sportier feel by specifying the three-door SC bodystyle, the performance figures are sober-suited, sixty from rest occupying around 14 seconds on the way to a maximum of only just over 100mph.

Virtually the same performance return you'd get from the frugal 75PS 1.2-litre TDI diesel. Both engines are a better bet than the aging 85PS 16v 1.4-litre petrol unit.

Whichever Ibiza bodystyle you choose "five-door hatch, ST estate or the sportier three-door SC, it won't at first glance appear to have changed very much over the original versions of this MK4 model. The key tweaks have been made around the headlights and grille, this Ibiza wearing the 'eagle eye' lamps that are now part of the SEAT corporate look.

In the back, the three-door Ibiza SC's roofline will make headroom an issue for taller folk, but five-door and ST estate models should seat two adults and/or three children quite comfortably. There's a 284-litre boot here, a total that rises to 292-litres in the five-door and 450-litres in the ST estate.

Expect to pay somewhere in the £10,000 to £17,000 bracket for this Ibiza, pricing that's pretty much par for the course in the supermini segment.

All models get what today's supermini buyers would see as the basics "front electric windows, tinted glass, a four-speaker MP3-compatible CD stereo with AUX-in point and steering wheel controls, remote central locking, a 12v power socket and a height-adjustable driver's seat.

Safety-wise, there are the usual twin front and side airbags, plus anti-lock brakes that flash the brake lights to warn following motorists if you're making an emergency stop.

Running cost-wise, the prime pick is undoubtedly the 1.2-litre diesel TDI engine with its clean Diesel Particulate Filter, offered both in standard form and, for a premium of around £5,000, in green-conscious Ecomotive guise.

Go the Ecomotive route and, thanks to a Brake Energy Recovery feature and a Start/Stop system that cuts the engine when you don't need it, stuck in traffic or waiting at the lights, you're talking emissions of just 92g/km which tax-wise will mean your car won't be much more expensive to run than a push bike.

At the same time, this variant barely sips fuel to achieve 80.7mpg on the combined cycle, considerably more frugal than much pricier competing eco-conscious supermini models like Ford's Fiesta Ecomotive and Vauxhall's Corsa ecoFLEX 95PS Start/Stop.



The Seat Ibiza delivers improved cost-efficiency, more hi-tech gadgets and style



For the fourth generation main tweaks have been around the headlights and grille



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Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

lost & found

LOST

Iraqi passport, October 17, possibly around Wolverhampton University Campus.

Police notified.
Miss Srusht Rashid
Box Number C18921,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOST—small gold ladies wrist-watch with black strap, Wednesday area. Sentimental value. 01902 304121.

1

Family

education & tuition

SMART TUITION SERVICES
Tuition for 11+ and key stage 3/4
maths and science. £12/hour, tutors
CRB checked. 07816 825604.

elderly & disabled

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Acorn / Brooks Stairlifts
New & Reconditioned
from £495
Call: 01384 356356

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £500. Plus New Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

caravans for sale

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at Wide Horizons
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caravans wanted

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taxi's

5 STAR TAXIS Single fare over the festive season. You Drink We Drive. 01384 232323 / 252525

markets

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07890 267041

music shop

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Drum Kit, amplifier, stool, pedal,
cost £850, very good condition,
£375 only. 01384 401859.



BASS GUITARIST REQUIRED

FOR GIGGING CLASSIC ROCK BAND BASED IN BIRMINGHAM.

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Reliable transport essential.



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07944 718726 /

theforged@hotmail.co.uk

sports & leisure

HORIZON ADVENTURE 32 Treadmill, as new, only used a few times. Cost over £500, sell £300. 01384 364030.

mind, body & soul

hair & beauty

BEAUTY THERAPY couch, white leatherette with wooden frame, extra wide, also steps, carry case, as new, £120. 01384 897022.

weddings

bridal clothing alterations

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30 High St, Halesowen, B63 3BB
0121 585 0890

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• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
• Chinese items • Old Ivory
• Old Walking Sticks • Military items
Pre '47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
ALL HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 OR
07791 783206



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Also live steam, also Diecast, Dinky, Corgi, Spot On. Guaranteed top cash prices paid!!
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



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WANTED. Dolls, figures and toys. Also small household goods. Telephone 01902 880692.

pc's, laptops & accessories

LAPTOP Windows, wireless, wifi, dvd, office, antivirus, works great, ideal for facebook etc, can deliver and set up. £70. 07973 348534

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

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weekend must be booked by
Friday. Call: 0121 555 6060.

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AFFECTIONATE KITTEN. 2 boys, 1 girl, 12 weeks old. £25 each. Call or text: 07866 001123.

CAVALIER DOG Pups. All Ruby. Home bred. Ready in one week. £525. 01384 374407.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES. good pedigree, vaccinated, insured, parents can be seen. 0121 453 1354.

01902 317878 • www.expressandstar.com/classifiedads

Classified Ads

CHOCOLATE LABRADOR pedigree puppies, ready now, £450. Details 01299 861529.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES Girls only, excellent pedigree, KC reg. bred for temperament, ready now. £500. 07798 648115.

KIND HOMES WANTED We have some lovely dogs in our rescue that through no fault of their own are looking for new homes.

From Jack Russells, Border Collies, Staff, Labs and lovely gently Mongrels. If you can offer one of these dogs a home please call me for more information. 01588 676106.

LABRADOR PUPPIES, black, very outgoing, 1st vaccination and health check, KC applied, 4 weeks insurance, 1 dog 3 bitches, £450. 01562 631635 or 07990 511406.

STAFFIE PUPPIES, beautiful big mostly black, KC applied for wormed, vet checked, £450. 01902 250808 or 07854 982007.

TWO white and black kittens, £10 each. Seven weeks old. 07973 273272.

YORKIE CROSS, miniature Chihuahua boy, black/white, 10 weeks, £250. 07456 419926.

3/4 PUG PUPPY 7 wks old, bitch, apricot, small, vet checked, 1st injection, ready Nov 3, £600. 07860 31115.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

livestock / poultry

WHITE LEGHORN CHICKENS x2, Nice friendly girls, Accommodation layers, £20 the pair, 07903 026410 or 07908 889950 (Bilston area).

6 Property

accommodation to let

A FURNISHED ROOM single person, CH, TV, cleaning, linen, all bills, £275pcm. Stafford Road. 01902 374375. No DSS.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BILSTON CENTRE spacious unfurnished ground floor flat, 1 bedroom, £430pcm. 07968 052936.

COSELEY comfortable 1 bed, 1st floor, s/c, unfurnished flat, ideal 30+, £330 pcm. 01902 758934.

COVEN HEATH 2-bed End Terraced House, garden overlooks fields, Deposit and Pets req. £550pcm. 07730 989662.

DUDLEY ONE bed second floor flat, GCH, DG, parking, £345pcm, no DSS. 07966 494135.

OFF TETTERHALL Road, 2 bed Flat CH, DG, off road parking £112pw. 01902 340073 or 07770 860636.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall town Centre, deposit required. 07976 781003.

THREE BED HOUSE fully refurbished, good size, Willenhall, near motorway, £575 pcm. 07960 743414.

THREE BED Wolverhampton, newly refurbished new kitchen / bathroom, CH, DG. 07866 795859.

TIPTON ONE bed flat, unfurnished, double glazing, DSS ok. Call or text 07754 076795.

TWO BED FLAT Kingswinford, DG, CH, no pets / children, non smoker, £450 pcm. 07811 395722.

WOLVERHAMPTON, Blakenhall, 2 bed house, 2 receptions, unfurnished, £400pcm, no deposit. 07905 656332 or 01708 509439.

houses for sale

BROOKSIDE, TELFORD.

Recently refurbished to a high standard, 3 bed town house in quiet area, not overlooked at the back, quiet frontage in a row of privately owned houses.

New boiler and radiators, new luxury bathroom and kitchen with integrated appliances, new carpets throughout.

Ready to move in or let at 8% yield potential. £84,000 ono. 07582 772090.



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Freehold semi detached house in sought after part of the village. Having lounge, dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, heating, off road parking / garage space. Phone agent.

£124,950.

01902 672400.

TWO BUNGALOWS

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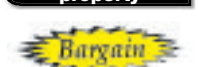
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In village location near

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Kitchen, living room, bedroom,

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Now includes all fixtures, fittings

and furnishings, for immediate

and comfortable occupation.

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For more details and

photographs.

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek

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entering into any financial commitments.



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With land and stables 7250 m2

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7 Jobs

full time - general

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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65,000 miles, tax, tested, good condition, £4,800 ono.

07876 291201.

CITROEN C1 1.0 09 Reg.,

49,000 miles, 33k miles, MoT and tax, excellent condition,

£2,995. 07944 851506.

FORD FIESTA 62 reg, new shape,

4000 miles from new, company car

forces sale. Must sell £4,995.

07405 155308.

FORD FOCUS 02, silver, tax, MoT,

radio, CD, 72,000 miles, good condition, £1,950 ono. 07760 887220.

HONDA CIVIC SE CTDI 1.7

Diesel, black, 2004, 88,000

miles, 12 months MoT, 6

months tax, FSH, 4 new tyres,

recently serviced, new cambelt,

excellent condition.

£3,100 ono.

Telephone 07811 878705.

HYUNDAI I10 CLASSIC, 2010,

23,000 miles, 12 months MoT, tax

to February 2014, 48,000 miles,

01902 472832/07969 576890.

MERCEDES 220 Touring Estate,

1994, excellent condition, service

history, 90,000 miles, £1,800.

07831 978265.

MITSUBISHI COLT 1.3, 56 reg, very

good condition, 54k miles, usual

extras, genuine sale, £1,950 ono.

07977 174776. (Stourbridge).

NISSAN X-TRAIL D16 SPORT 2003,

Diesel, 6 speed manual, silver, tax,

MoT September, £2,650 ono.

01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4S, 09 reg, 5 door,

tax, MoT, silver, 15,500 miles, lady

owner, very nice condition, fsh,

£4,750 ono. 07886 781724.

PEUGEOT 307, 07 Reg, 5dr, 47,000

miles, grey, 12 months MoT, excellent

condition, £1,995. 07944 851506.

★ PEUGEOT 307S, 2006,

62,000 miles, grey, abs,

electric windows, air con,

long MoT, pas, tax, CD,

petrol, £2,395 ono.

07904 088708.

PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE

Diesel, rapier 2.0 HDi 110,

2003, metallic blue, ABS, EW,

air bag, EM, air con, FSH,

alarm, CL, PAS, long tax and

MoT, alloys, CD, leather

interior, auto lights and rain

sensor.

£950.

07871 913497.

PEUGEOT 407 1.6SE HDi Black, 04

54, 92,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd,

SH, very clean, £1,999 ono.

07527 230756.

PORSCHE BOXSTER 2001, convertible,

electric roof, blue leather,

alloys, hifi, fsh, MoT, reduced

£4,749. 01902 405262. 07824

495604.

SKODA FABIA 4 door saloon 2003,

27,500 miles, Silver, electric

windows, fsh, long MoT, central

locking, tax, £2,500. 0121 429

5008

SKODA FABIA ESTATE Bohemia

star★extraTRAVEL

LONDON THEATRE BREAKS



Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵ **Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵ **Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵**

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

ClassifiedAds

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Oldbury Area.

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9
Local Information

public & legal notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Midland Freight Service Limited of Coombs Wharf, Chancel Way, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8RP is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 20 goods vehicles and 20 trailers at the operating centre at Coombs Wharf, Chancel Way, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8RP. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at: Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

sports clubs



KEWFORD EAGLES F.C.

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or Lee on 07557 802661.



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personal

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SPEED DATING Penn, Wolverhampton. Ages 20-35 Wed 4th Dec. Ages 30-45 Wed 11th Dec. Ages 40-55 Wed 18th Dec. 07576 57372 or whenhemusicstops.com

TO ALL LONELY LADIES A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

One romantic and honest elf, who's on special offer this festive season. An elf, aged 60s, medium build, young at heart, GSOH. I would give you my last mince pie if you are a slim fairy, aged 55 to 65 to perhaps share Christmas together and look forward to sharing a happy New Year? Please send all letters to Santa's Grotto.

Ho, ho ho.
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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Coseley battered by feast of goals

Wolves Ladies 11 Coseley Town Ladies 0
COSELEY LADIES where on the receiving end as Wolves Women returned to winning ways in the Birmingham County Cup.

Wolves dominated from the opening, scoring on 15 minutes when Jamillah Palmer turned in Jordan Timmins-Ray's cross.

Dani Selmes doubled the lead five minutes later.

The second half saw Selmes make it 3-0 shortly after the restart, before Palmer's free-kick found the bottom of the net.

Dominique Luke found Selmes in the box just before the hour, and she claimed her hat-trick.

Palmer followed suit four minutes later to give Wolves a 6-0 lead. Timmins-Ray made it seven before Palmer grabbed her fourth.

Left-back Laura McQuilkin added two stunning strikes from 30 yards in the last few minutes, as Palmer swapped positions with goalkeeper Natalie Hall.

With seconds left, Rebecca Large raced down the right wing to cross for Hall to finish.

Runners in their stride for contest

ATHLETES from Stourbridge running club were in full stride for the Birmingham Cross Country League at Newbold Comyn, Leamington Spa and run by Leamington Cycling and Athletic Club.

The A team were third and the B team came in second.

Runners on the day were: Duncan Cornish, Chris Blake, Kevin Burke, Pete Walters, Adam Harris, Rob Colman, Andy Aston, David Sheppard, Matt Sutton, Paul Giles, Mark Farnan and Paul Bradley.

The Ladies team came 22nd, with Joan Clarke, Natalie Dellar, Zoe Yeomand and Jane Tibbitts running for the club.

Then as part of the North Staffordshire Cross Country League, held at Park Hall, Staffordshire and hosted by Trentham RC and Blythe Bridge RC last weekend the men's team were fifth in division two and the ladies finished 12th in division two. First to cross the line was Duncan Cornish.

Yellow card opens the door to defeat

Newport 14 Old Halesonians 7
A NON-LEAGUE Saturday saw Hales first team travel to Newport in Shropshire for a rerun of last year's cup game that ended in victory for the old boys.

This time Hales took the opportunity to blood new players and have a look at how the second team were developing.

Seven regular first team combined as part of a young squad of 18 with no one looking out of place.

Newport fielded a near full strength side but the visitors took the game to them immediately, led by skipper for the day Rich Sawyer.

Early exchanges were even with new front row of Dan Blake, Sam Jones and Jon Deeks holding their own in early scrums.

Hales backs looked good with scrum half Greg Smith giving regular service to fly half Alex Herbert, who distributed well.

The Robinson brothers, Carl at centre and Andy at full back, combined well with Andy Holloway, Simon Sabel and Alex Church to attack the home side.

The pack led by Sawyer and Dan Young at No8 produced some rugged defence to secure ball for the backs to run resulting in a try

Rugby

for Holloway after 20 minutes, converted by Andy Robinson for a 0-7 lead. The home side were on the back foot with aggressive play from debutant Jake Hayden-Wright, who was everywhere and showing true potential supported by Pete Lewis, Tom King and prop Dan Blake in attack.

Newport began to work well together and earned a converted try before half time, to draw level.

Hales should have taken more initiative with the slope advantage

in the first half but really stuck at the task well.

The second half saw Hales put on all replacements, Duffy for Lewis, prop David Whiting for Sam Jones and wing Rhys Denham for Alex Church.

Second row Tom King received a yellow card for collapsing a maul and the attacking forwards of Newport took over for a converted try 14-7.

Hales regrouped and Denham was tackled feet from the try line just before the full time whistle.

Stourbridge 38 OHRFC 3rds 15
Old Hales played well in this

derby game and kept Stourbridge to 14-5 at half time with both of their tries coming from Old Hales errors. Old Hales tries came from Harry Higgs, Matt Weaver and Lee Davis. Top-notch running from Ben Perks gave Hales numerous chances but they failed to convert.

Wednesbury 3rd 21 OH 4th 7

Old Hales Colts lost a hard-fought game. Having gone two tries down they came back to within a score but gave away an intercepted try in the dying minutes when counter-attacking. A strong run from Conor Leahy resulted in the try for Hales.

Male's big hopes for title lying in tatters

CHRIS MALE'S hopes of becoming the British super featherweight champion lie in tatters after he was knocked by Troy James, writes Craig Birch.

The Cradley fighter had already been decked at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday. Male was first sent to the canvas from a booming right hand.

His defences were still down when Coventry's James launched another right hook, which left him flat out.

Referee Howard Foster called straight for the bell, signalling the end of a scheduled 10-round contest, and gestured for medical attention. Male left the ring under his own steam.

In the night's other title fight, Stafford's Rob Hunt was counted out against Stourbridge's Steven Pearce. There was equal disaster for Tipton's Ainsley Ratcliffe, who lost his professional debut on points against Hungarian visitor Csaba Kovacs at flyweight.

There were no such problems for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, who scored an impressive second round stoppage over the never-before-halted James Child on his paid bow.

Both scores disputed in Cradley win

Shifnal Town 1 Cradley Town 2

CRADLEY Town handed out a defeat to Shifnal on their home turf in the West Midlands Premier League.

However, Shifnal's boss Richard Gardner was left fuming as he disputed both goals in the 2-1 loss.

Gardner was adamant that both of the visitors' strikes should have been ruled offside.

And despite an Andy Rich penalty for the hosts, they slipped to a fourth successive league defeat at the hands of James Welnitschuk who scored both goals for Cradley.

Gardner said: "I was really pleased with the performance from the players and we feel hard done by. The lads deserved better."

Meanwhile the Black Country Rangers hammered Wellington Amateurs 4-1 with Amateurs' Casimir Monseesie netting a consolation.

It's seven heaven for ladies in cup victory

Redditch Ladies 0 Halesowen 7
ANOTHER away day for the Yeltz Ladies travel squad where they faced Redditch Ladies in the County Cup.

On paper the game should have been a good test as the home side is two leagues above Halesowen, however the Yeltz never read the script and from the off went on the attack. Within nine minutes Halesowen had taken the lead with swift winger Sophie Richards powering past the defence to net her first goal of the game.

This stunned the home side but before they could compose themselves, the Yeltz had doubled their lead on 12 minutes with a fantastic solo run cutting the defence wide open and slotting it past the lone keeper.

Five minutes later Richards scored with a low drive with good work from Rachel Letford.

Richards then completed her hat-trick within 39 mins.

Dignity

Halesowen were now in the driving seat and completely in control with the home side on the back foot and in disarray.

Leading goalscorer Letford then made it five with some fantastic work by Haley Chatwin to set her up. Then Letford became provider as Chatwin with a low drive made it six before half time.

The second half was a different story as Redditch upped their game and wanted to play for dignity as the damage had already been done. They tried to

Football

press the Halesowen side but skipper and central defender Charlotte Byatt rallied her troops and pushed back anything Redditch could throw at them.

The Yeltz crew, easily the best defence in the women's County League, were too strong for the home side attack.

Halesowen again started to dominate the game and Letford scored from a corner supplied from Chatwin.

Halesowen had numerous other chances but good goal keeping and desperate defending saved the score getting into double figures.

Late on Shel Thomas hit a 20-yard shot only to see the ball power off the post.

Halesowen manager Scott McKee said: "The Halesowen squad faced a team two divisions above them and we made them look very ordinary, we have an amazing squad."

Yeltz are at home at The Grove this Sunday against Attleborough. Kick-off 2pm.



Charlotte Byatt, right, who captained the winning team who shut out their higher league opponents Redditch

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SPORT

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The yellow peril
Penalty call spells loss
for Old Hales squad
Page 43

Seven heaven
Yeltz Ladies enjoy
shutout in Cup win
Page 43



e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Old Hales four-te is grabbing the glory

Old Halesonians 4 Stourport 1

DESPITE suffering pitch problems, which saw the game moved earlier in the week to Great Park in Rubery, Hales remained unfazed as they stormed to victory over local hockey rivals Stourport.

It was Stourport who started the strongest, as they dominated the first 15 minutes but it was Hales who opened the scoring.

Paul Woodall stepped up and sent the visiting keeper the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Stourport struck back soon after. Defender Ben Hughes had made his way to the goal line, but despite his best efforts, the shot struck his foot and went into the goal.

Hales then took control of the game as Durnford put the ball through the keeper's legs.

In an ill-tempered second half Hales Durnford got his second.

With eight minutes left striker Tom Bulteel put the ball into an empty net.

Other Results: Bromsgrove 1:0 OHHC Ladies 1sts 0; Stratford 2:0 OHHC 2nds 1; Droitwich 3:0 OHHC Ladies 2nds 0; Stourport 2:0 OHHC 4ths 2; OHHC 5ths 2 Hampton 4; Sutton 2 OHHC Badgers 3.

Casuals end run for Bs

Bustleholme 2 Wolves Casuals 5

BUSTLEHOLME'S good run came to an end with a home defeat to Casuals.

Despite Bustleholme dominating early, the visitors who took the lead through Chris Henry.

The Bs levelled just before the half hour when the impressive Martin Lewis finished in similar fashion. Just as Bustleholme thought they were back in the game, man-of-the-match Sean Williams was too quick for the Bs' defence and he finished with a low drive. After the break Lewis levelled with his second of the game after good work from Danny Hall and Jermaine McFarlane.

The game turned on its head when Bustleholme appealed for a penalty and as the referee waved play on Casuals broke away and Williams hit his second.

Minutes later he completed his hat-trick. Luke Tudor hit Casuals fifth.

Unlucky Glassboys take their leave of Trophy

F A Carlsberg Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

North Ferriby United 4 Stourbridge 0
GARY HACKETT'S men bowed out of this season's FA Trophy competition as their high-flying Skriff North opponents ultimately proved too strong for the Glassboys.

However, in a reversal of fortunes from the first game, it was the visitors who were left cursing their misfortune after a strong opening spell saw Stourbridge have two efforts cleared off the line and they also hit the crossbar before the East Yorkshire hosts opened the scoring against the run of play.

Stourbridge, showing three changes with

Football

George Washbourne, Nathan Bennett and Andre Francis replacing the unavailable Jamie Oliver, Aaron Drake and Drew Canavan, took the game to their opponents early on.

North Ferriby responded with Paul Robson supplying a right-wing cross that Nathan Jarman controlled on his chest before sending an overhead-kick wide of Dean Coleman's left-hand upright.

They forged in front on 26 minutes. Danny Clarke turned past Francis down the left and his low cross found Jarman and

although his shot was blocked, the ball broke to Liam King and he drove home a low shot from the edge of the area.

Five minutes later the home side doubled their advantage. A free-kick was tapped short to Jamie Yates and he delivered in a deep cross from the left towards the back-post where Danny Hone got in a downward header that bounced off Glassboys' midfielder Leon Broadhurst and over the line.

Almost immediately Stourbridge had a chance as Benbow collected the ball in the left channel area, however his chip dropped over the bar. Two minutes before the break Geddes tried to catch out Nicklin with a low

free-kick in from the left towards the near post and although the home keeper failed to hold the ball, he did enough to push it out for a corner.

Stourbridge hopes of a fight-back were effectively ended in first-half stoppage time as Jarman clipped a ball towards the far post for Ryan Kendall to direct a first-time volley past Coleman into the far corner of the net to make it 3-0.

The hosts wrapped up victory in the 69th minute when a goal-kick from Nicklin reached Jarman and he played Kendall through on goal and he slotted the ball low past Coleman for his second of the night.

Hope of Male title is dashed

CHRIS MALE'S hopes of becoming the British super featherweight champion lie in tatters after he was knocked by Troy James, writes Craig Birch.

The Cradley fighter had already been decked at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday. Male was first sent to the canvas from a booming right hand.

His defences were still down when Coventry's James launched another right hook, which left him flat out.

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There were no such problems for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, who scored an impressive second round stoppage over the never-before-halted James Child on his paid bow.

Regis is backing Roy on Berahino

CYRILLE REGIS has backed Roy Hodgson's handling of Saido Berahino and insisted the Albion starlet is not ready for England duty.

Baggies legend Regis has been impressed with Berahino but believes he needs time to develop.

He said: "He's simply too inexperienced for England. In a year's time, if he is still scoring goals on a regular basis then... give him a crack."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, November 21, 2013.

YELTZ HIT FIVE AND PUT GAME TO BED

Halesowen 5 Bedworth 0

HALESOWEN pushed Bedworth back into the basement, as they hit five past them at the Grove in what seemed to be a demolition job for the Yeltz.

The first event of the game came on 13 minutes as the Bedworth defence gave the ball away, and Iyseden Christie was able to run towards goal, but he was taken down by a tackle from Anthony Newton in the penalty area.

As Newton made no contact with the ball, a penalty was awarded to the Yeltz and Bedworth's captain Newton was sent off. Christie took the penalty and he blasted the ball into the top right corner to claim the lead for Halesowen.

He came close to grabbing his second goal of the game as he ran on to a free-rolling ball.

Clattered

He would have been able to easily place it into the net, but keeper Sheridon Martinez ran off his line and he clattered Christie to get the ball away.

Bedworth were starting to struggle and they gave away a free kick, and Aaron Griffiths stood up to take it, but he put too much power on it, and the ball flew over the bar.

Halesowen were getting chance after chance, but they could not get their second goal, as Avun Jephcott broke free of the Bedworth defence and he hit the ball past the outrunning Martinez, but the ball just went wide of the left hand post.

The second half started

Football

with Halesowen coming close as Tom Tonks hit a low, powerful shot towards goal that went straight through the Bedworth defence and the ball went centimetres wide of the left hand post.

Halesowen then got the goal they were searching for as Kristian Green was able to slot it into the net to grab his first goal of the season.

Halesowen then guaranteed the three points four minutes later as Curtis Tilt put the ball into the net with a diving header.

Halesowen were showing their one-man advantage as they grabbed their fourth goal from Christie, who slotted the ball under Martinez and Bedworth, who had not even had a shot on target yet, had completely broken down.

Bedworth had their first proper chance of the game after 75 minutes, as Aaron Forde gave the ball to Joel Grandison, who hit a shot from the right hand side of the box, but the ball flew wide of the goal.

Halesowen got their fifth five minutes from the end as Elliott Turner broke away from the Bedworth defence and he hit a low cross giving Jephcott loads of space to blast the ball home.

Heathens awards night is a roaring success



Sport Dudley Heathens speedway team with world champion Tai Woffinden. Picture John Hipkiss Photography

FANS packed out the Earle Suite at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel to celebrate a record-breaking season for Dudley Heathens.

More than 400 supporters and guests applauded the riders who enjoyed a record-breaking season with a clean sweep of National League honours.

World Champion Tai Woffinden made the journey from his Scunthorpe home to make the presentations and, despite old rivalry between the former Cradley club and

Woffinden's club Wolverhampton, he was given a standing ovation.

There was an added piece of good news, too, from the British Speedway AGM that Dudley was named track of the year by referees votes.

Skipper Ashley Morris was named rider of the year after votes by fans through the club's website and he was handed the Ivor Hughes award by Woffinden.

The Wayne Garratt Memorial award for most improved rider went to 16-year-old Max Clegg and fellow

teenager Nathan Greaves won most bonus points.

Club sponsor Dave Burns of Recycled Aggregates named Gareth Isherwood and Morris as recipients of a holiday as promised pre-season.

And the Max Cartwright Memorial award went to Clegg in memory of a lifelong supporter who passed away in February.

Heathens Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "It was everything we expected from the evening and I congratulate all our award winners."

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